

The Assault Weapons Ban – Chapter 1

Once upon a time Senator Diane Fineswine got a new law passed. President Osama Obama signed the new law into being. The NRA immediately challenged the law as being unconstitutional and a violation to the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution. Nothing new there, right? Fineswine and Biden had been behind the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban. After Bush allowed the law to sunset in 2004, many attempts were made to reintroduce the ban... none succeeded.

The year 2012 was an especially bad year for mass shootings. The horrific mass murder at a movie theater in Colorado on July 20, another at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin on August 5, another at a manufacturer in Minneapolis on September 27 and then the unthinkable nightmare at a Connecticut elementary school on December 14 are the latest in an epidemic of such gun violence over the last three decades. Since 1982, there have been at least 62 mass shootings across the country, with the killings unfolding in 30 states from Massachusetts to Hawaii. Twenty-five of these mass shootings have occurred since 2006.

There had been several mass shootings after the assault weapons ban expired. There were just as many mass shooting before the assault weapons ban expired. It's a commentary on our society, not firearms. Many victims of Henry Bowman fell victim to an Estwing hammer or a .22 shooting BB caps.

Nancy had a Masters in Graphic Arts and worked for a magazine, via computer. I started college intending to become an Architect. I couldn't cut it, so I switched my major to Civil Engineering. Ended up with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering and a Masters in Building Engineering, a sub discipline. We'd both worked for firms, gaining experience, before setting out on our own.

Nancy's folks originally lived in California but moved to Arizona in 1990, when California turned into a Police State. I was born and raised in Flagstaff and attended college in Phoenix. That's where I met Nancy, in a café in Tempe. When we graduated from college, we got married and pooled resources while we got our Masters Degrees.

Nancy got pregnant while we were working on our graduate degrees; she lost the baby during the 7th month, along with her ability to have more children. To get her mind off the situation, she focused on her studies and graduated at the top of her class. Shortly after that, her mother died of ovarian cancer. Her father turned to the bottle in his grief and smashed into a bridge abutment late one night returning from his favorite watering hole.

Did I mention we were only children? She got the entire estate and, after taxes, received circa \$400,000. A year after graduation, my parents were killed in an accident on I-17 on the way down to visit us. The Medical Examiner said Dad had a heart attack which caused the accident. Their estate consisted of the home and contents and a nominal amount of investments. However, each was insured for \$250,000, which was tax

free. The estate, after taxes, went about \$175,000. The insurance increased that to \$675,000. We each invested a quarter million in gold and fifty thousand in silver. That was in January, 2002.

They say every cloud has a silver lining; I'll take a few hundred ounces. We now live near Agua Fria National Monument, halfway between Phoenix and Flagstaff. The area was the one Marty Robbins referred to in *Big Iron*.

We both worked for five years after graduation before we started looking for property. We found 40 acres near Agua Fria National Monument and paid cash. Our first step was drilling a 4" well. The well driller charged by the foot and I think he must have drilled halfway to China. However the well put out some sweet water. We hired the 40 fenced with pig wire topped with barbed wire and every 3rd post was cedar.

When the fencing was completed, we found a landscaper to install a watering system and 3 rows of staggered Black Poplars, subspecies 'Italica'. The true Lombardy poplar, selected in Lombardy, northern Italy, in the 17th century. The growth is fastigate, with a very narrow crown. Coming from the Mediterranean region, it is adapted to hot, dry summers and grows poorly in humid conditions, being short-lived due to fungal diseases. Agua Fria was definitely hot and dry.

I'd had 5 years to design a home and we elected to go with the Farnsworth method of construction that was popular in Phoenix. The short version was that Farnsworth built a masonry exterior and a frame house inside. I had studied Joel Skousen suggestions briefly in graduate school. The Farnsworth method addressed most of his concerns or could be adapted to address those concerns. Truthfully, I thought we would have more time and found we were not completely prepared when Nibiru failed to show.

Following the suggestions of one of the Prep writers, we decided on a shelter with 96" of soil overhead. There was a schism among the experts about the amount of protection provided by soil ranging from 3.6" to 5.5" to provide one halving thickness. Using 3.6", 96" of packed earth yielded 26 $\frac{2}{3}$ halving thicknesses. Using 5.5", 96" yielded 17.45 halving thicknesses. But that didn't consider the 10" concrete overhead which provided 4.16 to 2.56 halving thicknesses. Worst case, 10" of concrete and 96" of soil provided ~20 halving thicknesses and best case ~31 halving thicknesses.

When I had a set of blueprints I thought Nancy would approve, I presented them so she could make the changes she wanted. The floor plan was very negotiable and I had incorporated 2 master bedrooms with ensuite baths, an informal living room with space for an informal dining area. The kitchen included a large pantry with shelving and an upright freezer.

Her first change was a wood burning fireplace. I manage to incorporate that using extremely heavy duty pipes and shutoff valves. The wood burning stove could be accommodated by rearranging the kitchen and using the fireplace chimney. Ultimately that led

to a 12" masonry ceiling with an 8' interior frame ceiling which called for more concrete. It did provide for storage of lightweight products like bath tissue.

The footprint of the shelter and the home were the same, 40'x72' or 2,880ft². It was large enough to add a powder room (half bath). I had quit my job and was supervising the construction, on site, staying in a small Air Stream travel trailer. Nancy stayed in Phoenix, working, and shopping on weekends for furniture for our new home. Following a second writer's advice, I'd acquired a Suburban and had the electronic controlled engine swapped out with a Cummins 6BT non-electronic engine. Then, I added all the extras he suggested, up to a point. It wasn't *Rufus*, but it came close. It was turbo charged not supercharged.

When Nancy traded vehicles, she got a Jeep Grand Cherokee with diesel engine. She promptly replaced the engine with Cummins 6BT, the 5 speed automatic transmission with 6-speed manual transmission and the automatic transfer case with a manual unit from an earlier model. She added a hitch to the front, added a second battery and replaced the alternator with a pair of 12v generators. She kept the original automotive battery and added an 820 amp-hour AGM to power the radios.

We both had Amateur Extra Class licenses and installed Kenwood TS-2000 radios in our vehicles along with Cobra 148GTL SSB CB radios and Motorola CM-300 VHF radios. We licensed 4 channels on the business band radios with the FCC. In the same purchase we added a TS-2000 for the shelter and a second for the den, Galaxy DX2547 SSB base stations, again for the shelter and den plus 4 Cobra 40 channel portables and 2 additional CM-300... shelter and den again.

Despite the looming recession, the shelter and home were constructed. The access to the shelter was outside the home and the shelter stairwell wrapped around one corner of the shelter. The stairwell was 48" inside width with a USS blast door at the top of the stairs and another into the shelter. Once again the stairwell walls were poured with 10" thick reinforced concrete.

If it appears that we had a *thing* for 10" walls, it's only because that's the wall thickness needed to install the blast doors. In addition to the 4 doors we purchased through USS, we purchased 4 AV-300s and spare filters. We also added 1 blast hatch for the emergency exit.

The concrete I insisted on was interstate road concrete aka 6 sack. From start to finish, construction to occupancy took 12 months. The shelter overhead and the home overhead were supported with high strength I beams, specifically A992, 50,000-65,000 psi.

The inside framing of the shelter and home used 2x6 studs with 3" of foam insulation. All wiring was grounded flex or metal conduit. Each duplex had 4 outlets and each non-electrical box contained a 25 pair telephone cable, a category 5e Ethernet cable, type-F TV cable with connectors for each. Both the outlets and multiuse boxes existed every 6'. The primer and base coat was Navajo white, the most common color used these days.

The generator was a diesel powered single phase Kohler 50REOZJB providing ~208 amps of prime power. We bought 2 used double wall 25,000 gallon diesel tanks and had them installed underground with 6' of earth cover topped with a 4" concrete slab. We also installed a 1,000 gallon kerosene stand tank and a 500 gallon gasoline stand tank. The last infrastructure item installed was a pair of 120' utility poles to be used as antenna masts.

Gas for the utilities would be propane and Nancy had purchased propane appliances. The propane tank I had installed underground was used 15,000-gallon tank made by Hansen Tank.

"What do you think?"

"It looks good to me. I'll get a moving company to haul the furniture and appliances up as soon as possible. I've discussed the possibility of working from home and the company agreed with my choice. What about you?"

"There are several unresolved issues and I'll concentrate on those."

"For instance?"

"Mounting and connecting the various radio antennas, hiring a satellite dish installed for TV and internet, start filling the fuel tanks and the shelter storage room."

"What's your take on the November 4th election?"

"Not good, McCain can't get elected. I believe Obama will find an excuse to implement a new Assault Weapons Ban."

"You'd better add buying guns and ammo to your shopping list."

"I can't believe we won't be able to acquire firearms and ammo so I'm going to defer those until last."

"I hope you're right."

Her statement falls into the category of my ignoring good advice. Obama won the November 4th election. His stated priority was National Healthcare. I was surprised his priority wasn't renewing the previous Assault Weapons Ban. While I hadn't mentioned it, the service package I was considering included VoIP aka telephone. The downside of moving from Phoenix to 40 acres near Agua Fria National Monument was the overall absence of services. The town named Agua Fria was now named Dewey-Humboldt.

Once we were settled in, I arranged for: antenna installation, setup a fill-schedule for the tanks, and had a fuel dispensing pump installed on the concrete pad to allow filling our

vehicle fuel tanks. I got full loads for the two farm tanks and stabilized them with PRI-D and PRI-G. The first load of diesel fuel was 5,000 gallons and the schedule called for adding an additional 5,000 gallons per month until the tanks were full. At this point in time, our sole power source was the generator.

I took a trip to Phoenix and arranged for 2 25kw wind turbines and a solar array, some mounted on the house and additional panels installed on the 6 car concrete block garage. That gave us 3 sources of power, wind, photovoltaic and the generator. As nearly as I could calculate the payback period was between 5-7 years including the one bank of submarine batteries in the garage.

Once the alternative energy sources were complete, we used the PV panels, wind turbine and generator to charge the batteries. Our primary source of electricity was 48vdc inverted by a rack of Outback Inverter/charge controllers. I then shut down the generator and serviced it. In addition to the shelf of replacement filters, the generator room had 4 55 gallon drums for oil, one empty and 3 full. I had selected Castrol Tecton HD 15w-40 oil. There were 3 additional drums of oil and filters in the storage room

I'm a Civil/Building Engineer, not a diesel mechanic, and I made arrangements with a Dewey-Humboldt (formerly known as Aqua Fria) diesel engine mechanic to rebuild the engine and install the spare alternator head when/if needed. There were two complete rebuild sets for the engine and 2 alternator heads. The typical life of the engine was 15-30,000 hours, depending on how well the engine was maintained.

When the fuel tanks were full, I used the funds to buy additional submarine batteries, generally 2 at a time. My intent was to wire the batteries in series and the second bank parallel to the first bank. I kept one inverter/charge controller in reserve as a replacement.

Next, I brought the landscaper back to level the empty desert which made up our acreage. The well driller came back and drilled an irrigation well. Then, I hired a custom farmer to till the soil and plant alfalfa. He would also harvest and stack the hay. The third step was construction of a barn from solid concrete block. This would give us a place to store the hay and shelter any livestock if it became necessary. I added another pair of AV-300 air filters and made certain the doors could be tightly sealed.

Our first order of LTS food arrived from Rainy Day Foods. We purchased 10 1-year deluxe packages which were stored in the shelter's storage room. Our next trip to Sam's Club filled in the items needed but not included things like oil, coffee, tea and cocoa. As she had time, Nancy compared Emergency Essentials and Nitro Pak. She ordered a selection from both vendors. She purchased no. 10 cans and pouches which contained 2 servings. She also purchased a Diamant 525 grinder from Lehman's. That wood burning kitchen stove also came from Lehman's; it was a Waterford Stanley Wood Cook stove.

Around that time, I ordered 1 cord of softwood kindling and 29 cords of hardwood to burn in the stoves and fireplace. It didn't really matter that the wood might be green, not with the typical weather we have. We discussed it and decided to only use the wood stove during winter and to reorder based on usage. Not only would we replace the wood burned, we'd purchase 10 cords of hardwood and a face cord of kindling to maintain the 29:1 ratio. We could adjust based on usage.

There were other things to add to the kitchen equipment like a slicer, meat grinder and tenderizer plus things like flakers, etc. Almost everything purchased for our home was duplicated in the shelter. We filled a 2nd garage stall with half pint, pint and quart Mason jars and bulk purchased Tattler reusable lids. It essentially became a common practice to purchase 2 of everything.

After we had 3 cuttings of hay stored in the barn loft, the field was replanted with a fescue mix the commercial farmer recommended. I put up additional fencing to fence off 10 acres for gardening and bought a wide selection of heirloom seeds. That meant I needed a rototiller and the dealer also sold Stihl chainsaws in addition to the Troy-bilt rototillers. We added one of those galvanized grain bins and filled it with a generic feed mix which would work well for horses, cattle and hogs. Supplements came in paper bags.

We purchased a Black Angus cow with her new calf and her yearling steer. In addition, we bought a 2 year old sow and had her bred. Finally, we purchased 2 mares and 2 geldings of the American Saddlebred breed. The horses were trained to harness and saddle and Nancy got a dealer to come down from Flagstaff to 'measure' the horses for tack. After determining what our budget was he came up with quality plain saddles, bridles, halters, saddlebags, pintle bags and harnesses. He also offered a 'good used' buggy and we bought it.

He asked if we had any saddle rifles and I answered no. Nancy corrected me and said that we had Winchester 1886 and 1892 rifles. She wondered if the pommel bags had bags or holsters. He said either, it was up to us. She told him to get them with double holsters for 5½" Ruger Blackhawks and scabbards for the 2 rifles.

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"Cowboy guns?"

"We have to have something."

"Well, the Republicans retained control of the House but the Democrats still hold the Senate."

"That means we're going to need to buy the firearms sooner than later."

"Last time I was in Phoenix, I shopped around. The folks at McMillan said they usually have a Tac-50 in stock. Several dealers had that new Ruger SR-556 along with Brown-

ing Hi-Powers, Walther PPKs, Mossberg shotguns and so forth. They also had ample stocks of ammunition, so I don't see the need to rush. Cowboy guns, huh? Did you buy me a Stetson?"

"Didn't know what size you wear or I might have done that."

"Size 7 $\frac{1}{8}$."

"Pointy head, huh?"

"I should probably buy a pile of Wrangler jeans and some nice western cut shirts. I can also buy those blue work shirts. I'll need boots, too."

"The fastest way to break them in is to put them on, get them wet and walk them dry. You'll need 2 hats, a straw hat for warm weather and a felt hat for cold weather."

"When did you buy the firearms?"

"I got them on my last trip to Prescott."

"Davidson's?"

"Yeah, great warranty."

"How did you manage to get the Winchester rifles?"

"They're manufactured in Japan for Browning Firearms. I chose to go with .45 Colt and .45-70 for all the old fashioned firearms. That permits reloading the fired cartridges with black powder or Pyrodex. I picked up 25 ingots of recovered wheel weights, the appropriate primers and both rifle and pistol Pyrodex. The ingots weigh 10 kilos or 154,324 grains. The yield for those 25 ingots is about 3,858,100 grains. They told me I wouldn't need gas checks.

"I've been busy too. We didn't have any firearms or ammunition and when it appeared to me that Fineswine might get the bill passed, I scurried to resolve that problem. It wasn't the lack of money... it was more that we (I) put it off and since December 14, 2012 you couldn't find firearms or ammo. If you did, the price was jacked up to double or more of the MSRP."

"You're nothing more than a common thief!"

"I may be a thief, but I'm certainly not common. I'm very selective in what I steal, so you're being inaccurate when you use the term common."

"Give me an example."

“For the most part, I only take semi-auto rifles that use a gas piston system; they’re reliable. When I do happen on select fire rifles, they must be gas piston or I pass on them. Before that school massacre in December, it was easy to get an M1A from Springfield Armory, Inc. or a SR-556 from Ruger.

“But no, they just had to pass an Assault Weapons Ban that even includes both of those rifles. I got curious one day just before New Year’s and checked several ammo dealers and weapon manufactures websites. Ammoman’s website was down with a notice that they were at least 7 days behind on shipments and had turned off the phones. Aim Surplus website was up but when I checked 5.56×45mm and 7.62×51mm, the only listing they had was Wolf and they were out of stock.

“Finally I checked Ammunition to Go. He had stock, which isn’t surprising considering his prices. He did have an off brand, Magtech 7.62x51 NATO 147gr. M80 Ball Ammo. It was loaded by CBC - Companhia Brasileira de Cartuchos, the largest military and commercial ammunition manufacturer in Latin America. It is brass cased, boxer primed, non-magnetic and 100% non-corrosive. It comes packed in 50rd. boxes for \$39.95.”

“So?”

“I ordered 100 boxes. He also had Lake City M-27 linked 5.56×45mm 4:1 at \$799.95 for 900 rounds so I ordered 6 cans. That’s what the deliveries were.”

“So, you bought 10,400 rounds of ammo? What did it cost?”

“Not including shipping \$3,995.00 plus \$4,799.70. With shipping right at \$9,000.”

“But we don’t have anything that shoots 5.56×45mm!”

“Didn’t, not don’t. I got 4 HK416s and 4 HK417s with all the barrels and 25 magazines per rifle. We’re long on 7.62×51mm rifles and short on 7.62×51mm ammo. Lucky Gunner didn’t have any M118LR left.”

“It will take 3,000 rounds of 5.56 to load the HK416 magazines and 2,000 rounds of 7.62 to load the HK417 magazines!”

“I know; that’s why I bought so much ammo.”

“You’re going to end up dead Jim.”

“Ok, but let me tell you the rest before you kill me.”

“What else did you get?”

“That’s my girl, I like your thinking. Two rifles, a Springfield Armory, Inc. M1A Super Match model SA9804. I had to paint the barrel with flat charcoal paint, but it looks good.

I took TOM's advice and got a Sadlak mount and A.R.M.S. throw Lever rings to mount the Zeiss Victory FL Diavari 4-16x50mm T* with the illuminated reticle. I had a rail installed to hold an AN/PVS-22 UNS and added a Surefire Suppressor. I had to settle for a first generation FA762SS suppressor with the MB762SS01 Muzzle Brake / Suppressor Adapter. I got a Harris bipod and had it installed. I did get 25 of the CMI 25 round M1A magazines.

"The other rifle should really get the Brady Bunch knickers in knots; a McMillan Tac-50. It's not the new A1R2 since they were out of stock but I did get the complete package with Elite Iron suppressor, McCann Night Vision Rail, Nightforce NXS 12-42x56mm mil dot scope, an AN/PVS-27 MUNS and 10 magazines. The ammo is a mix of Hornady 750gr AMAX and Western (WCC) manufactured Mk211MP. I have 5,000 rounds total at six bucks a round."

"You obviously didn't get enough ammo; spend too much on rifles?"

"I know; it's so hard to find! But I didn't spend a dime on the rifles or accessories. I'm hardly a common thief!"

"You only bought ammo? Why didn't you steal that too?"

"I told you, it's hard to find... and heavy. I didn't know what you wanted for a rifle, handgun or shotgun so I took 2 Mossberg 590A1 SPXs with aftermarket slings, sidesaddles and butt cuffs. I also got 2 Ruger SR-556 with 25 magazines each. Then there was the matter of handguns and I took 2 Taurus PT1911B-1s, 2 Browning Hi-Power classics and 2 Walther PPK in .380. There are 5 magazines for the Browning's and Walther's and 7 for each Taurus. All of the ammo is Gold Dot, I couldn't find any Corbon."

"But the new law bans concealed carry."

"Nancy, we'll get you a Galco purse."

"That won't do any good. If I have to use a pistol, I'll get arrested and they'll take it away."

"So, wear sneakers or running shoes."

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That didn't go over too well. And she'd obvious overlooked that 5,000 rounds of .50BMG at \$6 per was 30 grand. Plus 1,000 of Gold Dot ran a buck a round. Worse, we didn't dare take the firearms out of the house, especially the H&Ks.

And then, as luck would have it, I got a tip that a National Guardsman had M855A1 and M118LR that he'd borrowed from storage at Camp Navajo and was selling it for a buck

a round. I bought six cases each of the 7.62 and 5.56. My thinking was the price on M118LR was low and the price on M855A1 was high... but it averaged out.

Have you added it up yet? I'd spent money like a sailor on shore leave. Thing was, we had it to spend and there was no time like the present, before things really got complicated. We had no firearms that could be traced by a 4473 or someone with loose lips except for the Cowboy guns. That put us in the 30s age group. Neither of us worked outside the home because we didn't have to.

Although risky, it hadn't been THAT difficult to collect the weapons. Cold Steel happens to have a location in Phoenix, too. Couldn't find Natchez Bowies; had to settle for Laredo Bowies, San Mai III. I added folding knives, machetes (like Arizona has a lot on jungles) and tomahawks (we do have a lot of Indians). So, the only thing we were short on was ammo.

I found some Black Hills 175gr 7.62x51mm along with some Black Hills 68gr 5.56x45mm heavy match hollow point. I reasoned that the only explanation for it being available was because it must have been made out of gold. If the price was any guide, that could have been the case. The difference in ballistics between the M118LR and the Black Hills 175gr was the difference between day and night and the Super Match now shot exactly where it was aimed. I set aside the M118LR to use in the HK417s. Their 1:11 rifling wasn't quite tight enough but at this point, I didn't care. Fortunately for me, the store was closed so the ammo was fairly cheap.

I added a locking gun rack to the shelter to hold the long arms and a Lexan front display case for the handguns. Nancy had recently placed orders with Emergency Essentials, Nitro Pak and Rainy Day foods. The shipments arrived in that order. Call it 20 years for 1 or 10 years for 2. She really loaded up on the 2 person pouches which led me to wonder if she planned on being on the road a lot.

The Senate passed the new Federal Assault Weapons Ban and forwarded it to the House for consideration. Fineswine didn't get everything she wanted... but she got most of what she proposed. The Republican majority in the House was less than ecstatic about the bill and began to pick it apart. The NRA said they'd oppose the law in any form that passed if the government took away one more right or further limited the 2nd Amendment in any way. They had *Heller* and *McDonald* to rely on.

The Assault Weapons Ban – Chapter 2

The House returned the amended Assault Weapons Ban to the Senate today. Senator Reid said it would be reviewed by a conference committee. Conference committees can be extremely contentious, particularly if the Houses are controlled by different parties. House rules require that one conference meeting be open to the public, unless the House, in open session, votes that a meeting will be closed to the public. But apart from this one open meeting, conference committees usually meet in private, and are dominated by the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees.

With a Democratic majority in the Senate and a Republican majority in the House, this reporter believes that the conference committee may be unable to reach a common goal. President Obama cautioned the House to not cut off its nose to spite its face. The House version of the bill eliminated an estimated 75% of the provisions of the proposed Federal Assault Weapons Ban penned by Senator Feinstein. We'll return after a word from our sponsor.

“Did we get the cart before the horse?”

“I think not. Regardless of the final form of the new Federal Assault Weapons Ban, it will be much more difficult to acquire firearms. The very fact that you bought us *Cowboy guns* may act in our favor.”

“Explain.”

“You had to fill out forms 4473 rifles and form 3310.4 on the handguns. Those are the only weapons in our possession that are recorded. The firearms I acquired aren't on any paper except burglary reports. Therefore they will only be expecting those *Cowboy guns* and I'm certain they won't be banned.”

“Is that what he was getting at?”

“Who?”

“Tired Old Man.”

“I hadn't thought about it, but you could be right. I wonder if he ever got his Super Match or Tac-50.”

“I can't see any way he could have afforded a Tac-50 with the accessories. Both the rifle and ammo are illegal in California. If you add up what you would have spent on a Super Match, it would have been a reach for even us. What I'd rather believe is he bought *Cowboy guns*. What I don't understand was why he gave his guns to his youngest son.”

“Maybe his health is failing.”

“Could be. He’s still written several stories since June of 2012. Did you buy his CD?”

“Didn’t you?”

“No.”

“I’ll go to E-Bay and order a copy. Where can we download his newer stories from?”

“Jerry’s website or Preparedness Center.”

“I’ll do that before bedtime. What did you think of the Super Match shooting the Black Hills ammo?”

“I think you should have taken 2.”

“I’ll keep that in mind. I did find a source for more 20 round M1A magazines, 44 Mag dot com.”

“Did they have them in stock?”

“It appeared so.”

“I’ll order some. How many would you suggest?”

“Fifty. Get spare springs if they sell them. I’m going shopping.”

“Tonight?”

“It’s easier when the stores are closed.”

“What are you looking for?”

“An SA9804, the same as mine with the same glass, suppressor, bipod, etc. To avoid mixing up the rifles, I’ll paint a white feather on mine.”

“You think you’re in the same league as Carlos Hathcock?”

“Not at all, I’m no *Lông Trắng*. The Super Match rifle is the basis for the M-25 White Feather that Springfield Armory, Inc. manufactured for a few years. I can say that because the Super Match is the same rifle as an M-21 Tactical which the M-25 is based on. I might have been tempted at one time to buy one. TOM pointed out that the rifle lacked backup iron sights. Therefore I set my sights lower and got a Super Match and added a cheek rest.”

“Do we have enough 7.62×51mm for 2 rifles?”

Ten thousand rounds of Black Hills 175gr match ammo.”

“That’s a good start.”

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“We have more than enough 7.62 to run through the loaded models I picked up.”

“Oh, when did you get those?”

“Last night while I was shopping. I got the Sadlak mounts, 30mm throw lever rings, Nightforce 3.5-15x50 F1 NXS with the LV.5 reticles, Harris bipods, Surefire suppressors the same as I have on my Super Match and your will have on your Super Match. That’s the one without the white feather.”

“Whatever you say... Carlos.”

“I’ll get the rifles set up and sighted in with the laser bore scope today. Did you order the magazines?”

“Not yet.”

“Get at least 75 but 100 would be better. Also get some of those Lulu loaders, say 2 for each caliber, 5.56 and 7.62. Maybe you can get a volume discount. 44 Mag dot come is still out of about every magazine they carry. I suspect that they’re holding off reordering until they know the outcome of the AWB. I really like those CMI magazines they sell.”

“How are we going to carry all this stuff?”

“ALICE gear with suspenders, 2 stainless canteens, one canteen cup and one canteen stove. Glock entrenching tools and Katadyn Vario water filters with Micropur tablets. MSR whisper lite stoves with extra fuel bottles and spare parts. A Karifu EMR for me and a Karifu Navigator for you. For sleeping, thermarest inflatable pads, Slumberjack multilayer sleeping system with a Mountain Hardware Trango 3.1 tent with the optional floor.”

“Are we planning on Bugging out?”

“No. On the other hand having a vehicle emergency kit is never a bad idea. I was thinking about a set of spare hoses, belts and a small mechanic tool set. Add 6 gallons of 50/50 antifreeze and one can handle 80-90% of the typical road emergencies.”

“Food and water?”

“We could pack 7-8 double serving Mountain House entrees with sides.”

“Every time we get into a discussion of this nature, you seem know all the answers.”

“I never stop thinking about situations that could arise. No one person has all of the answers. As long as we have input into our destinies, we can remain at the head of the pack.”

“I’ve wondered what would happen if the Ban gets passed with the severe restrictions Feinstein wants.”

“Best guess? An Insurrection because nobody will register the firearms they already have. Many companies manufacture magazines for the AR-15/M-16, even Surefire. Check Mate Industries will no doubt have several magazine shipments *hijacked*. So will that new company X-Products. There will be a Black Market selling everything they outlaw. Her bill doesn’t include a Sunset clause. The AR-15 magazines are NATO compliant and regardless of who manufactures them, I doubt there will be a shortage.”

“Do you plan on getting involved?”

“Officially, no; unofficially, I’ll wait and see what happens and lend a hand if asked.”

“I suppose you intend to leave me home while you are out gallivanting around trying to get your head shot off.”

“That, my dear, is completely up to you. We could hire someone and let them occupy the Air Stream and tend to the livestock.”

“Start looking for a hired hand.”

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His name was Harry and he had worked several ranches before his health took a dump... osteoarthritis. In plain language his body was worn out. What little livestock we had wouldn’t overwork him. If something serious came up, he’d call the vet. I told him to take whatever portion of the milk he’d use and feed the rest to the hogs. If we weren’t back when it came time to butcher, he could haul the beef and pork to a locker plant. The meat could be stored in one of two chest freezers in the garage. He could help himself to the meat and the food we’d move to shelving in the garage.

The terms were room and board and \$10 a day. There was diesel and gasoline for his vehicle. He asked about the entrance to the shelter and I told him it was off limits unless we had World War Three. I gave him a key and explained he could access the barn and garage from the tunnels. The barn had a fair protection factor while the garage was less. I asked his age and he said 65. That meant he could have served in Vietnam.

I got one of the Loadeds from the house and went back to him.

“Recognize this?”

“M14?”

“Are you familiar with the rifle?”

“Carried one in ‘Nam. Then they brought out the poodle shooter. Those of us who shot the M14 with distinction and pushed the issue were allowed to keep ours.”

“Distinction?”

“Yeah, distinction. It wasn’t all jungle and one person per squad kept their M14 for long range work. You familiar with the TET Offensive?”

“I was never in the military. I’ve seen footage of the TET Offensive on the History Channel. You’re right, there was this one scene where a soldier was using an M14 and that was in ‘68.”

“There ya go.”

“Would you be willing to consider a change in my offer?”

“Watcha got in mind.”

“First off, you can use this rifle. It’s the civilian version of the M14, the M1A. I’ll add a M1911 to the package and a Mossberg shotgun. The way the rifle is set up includes that Harris bipod and a Surefire muzzle brake adapter for a suppressor. That scope is top notch glass, a Nightforce 3.5-15x50 F1 NXS with a LV.5 reticle.”

“You’ll do the same work as before but the pay will be \$500 per month and the position will be permanent.”

“Who I gotta kill?”

“No one if we get lucky. You heard about that Federal Assault Weapons Ban Congress is working on?”

“Who hasn’t?”

“If it passes, it’s likely that M1A will become a NFA weapon and have to be registered and a \$200 tax stamp acquired.”

“This is a select fire version? There ain’t no selector on the right side.”

“It’s semi-auto only. Here’s a key to the shelter locks. It will open the padlocks on both blast doors.”

“This one of those Springfield Armory rifles?”

“Yes.”

“Got an extry Super Match equipped the same way?”

“I’ll have one by tomorrow.”

“Cool.”

“The deal acceptable to you?”

“Yeah, it is.”

“I’ll tell my wife Nancy. I’m Jim Johnstone.”

o

“I’ve got to go shopping tonight.”

“What now?”

“Another fully equipped Super Match, a 590A1 SPX and a PT1911B.”

“For the new hired man?”

“His name is Harry and I’ll wheedle out his last name tomorrow. He carried an M14 in ‘Nam. I don’t see any reason to get a scope any better than that Nightforce I got for the Loadeds.”

“Aren’t you glad we got 100 magazines from 44 Mag?”

“I sure am. That will give us 25 magazines per rifle. I’ll pick up another set of ALICE gear for Harry. I set his pay at \$500 a month plus room and board. I told him he was a permanent hire. And, I might as well pickup a SR-556 and more magazines for the Ruger.”

Davidson’s had added a guard since my last visit. That just made it harder, not impossible. He was an outside guard, watching the entry and making a foot patrol once an hour to check the doors. Once I was inside, I used my red filtered Surefire light and started collecting. I figured I was doing them a favor, eliminating their soon to be NFA weapons.

I got the Taurus with 5 extra magazines, the Mossberg with bayonet, sling, sidesaddle and butt cuff, the SA9102 Super Match and the accessories and the SR-556 with the

extra Magpul magazines. I'd get the ALICE gear in Flagstaff the next day... uh, later today.

"I invited Harry to breakfast. Did you have any trouble in Prescott?"

"They added a rent-a-cop at the gate and he made hourly roving patrols to check the door locks. I got everything except the ALICE gear and Harry and I can get that later today in Flagstaff. It occurred to me that I'm doing them a favor. They can file insurance claims instead of turning the weapons over to ATF."

"You got it out of your system?"

"I suppose, they're starting to run out of Assault Weapons. Harry can shoot up the M118LR."

"I think I'll ride along and pick up some Winchesters and Ruger Blackhawks. I checked and the breeder had another gelding. He'll be delivering it tomorrow. We will need tack."

"Mornin' folks."

"Don't believe I asked your last name Harry."

"Callahan. Is that my equipment?"

"Everything you asked for. The scope is the same as on the Loaded. We'll get the scope mounted and sighted in with a bore scope after breakfast. Plus I have to change out the flashhider to a muzzle brake for the Fast Attach Suppressor. Even picked up a Springfield Armory leather sling. The sling for the Mossberg is an aftermarket item and holds 15 rounds. The sidesaddle holds 6 rounds and the butt cuff the same."

"Pretty fancy."

"We'll keep the Loadeds for backup. I got you a poodle shooter with a gas piston so you won't have the trouble with it they had in 'Nam. We'll go to Flagstaff and pick up a set of ALICE gear this afternoon."

"I still have a set, so you don't need to bother."

"Nancy and I still have to make a trip to Flagstaff. Do you ride horses?"

"Yeah. Got calluses in places most people don't think about."

"Nancy bought you a gelding, the same as the ones we have. We have to pick up a few items and arrange for the guy to measure the horse for the tack. Nothing fancy... but good quality."

“You’re getting me a scabbard for the M14?”

“Not exactly. Your saddle rifles will be Winchesters and your revolvers will be Ruger Blackhawks in .45 Colt. You familiar with the Laredoan crossdraw?”

“Nope.”

“Right side holster will hold a 7½” Blackhawk and the crossdraw holster a 4⁵/₈” Blackhawk. Nancy can measure you and get on the phone with Kirkpatrick. They might have them in stock if we get lucky. If not, figure 6 weeks tops.”

“So you’re rich?”

“Not exactly. The term might be comfortable. Nancy works as a graphics designer via the internet and I’m a civil engineering consultant.”

“You must have a lot of money tied up firearms.”

“Less than you think. The only registered firearms are the *Cowboy guns*.”

“How did you manage that?”

“Private purchase?”

“Un huh... and you didn’t ask where my model 29 was.”

“Well I know you’re not Dirty Harry, he’s taller. Did you know that when they decided to make the movie, Eastwood contacted Smith & Wesson to get the revolvers for the movie? The model 29 hadn’t been in production for several years so they had to construct the model 29s for the movie from left over spare parts. S&W now has a classic series where they brought back the J Frame and several other revolvers including the model 29.”

“What’s something like that Super Match package run?”

“As equipped maybe 7 grand; we’re somewhat limited on the 175gr ammo so I’ll let you shoot up the M118LR.”

“Pistol ammo?”

“230gr Gold Dot. Shotgun shells are all 3” and include the Brenneke 1³/₈oz Black Magic slugs and Remington buckshot with 15 pellet 00 and 41 pellet no. 4 buckshot.”

“Sounds like you’re loaded for bear.”

“In a manner of speaking, I guess so. It has nothing to do with bears per se.”

“How did you end up in a place as remote as this?”

“Looked until we found it? Look, we won’t be leaving right away. We’re going to wait until we get our ducks lined up. Your duties are simple. Milk the cow twice a day, feed the livestock twice a day and keep the barn mucked out. We have a contract farmer who spreads the manure and tills and plants new grass every year. About every third year he plants alfalfa and stores it in the barn’s loft. The mixed feed in the grain bin feeds all the livestock when mixed with the various supplements. I’ll cover that when we do the chores.”

“That was mighty fine Mrs. Johnstone, thank you.”

After we did the chores, I asked, “You ready to get your firearms in tip top condition?”

“Sure, what’s that entail?”

“We’ll start at the front and work our way back.”

We removed the flashhider and installed the muzzle brake adapter using the special pliers and alignment rod. Next, I broke down the rifle and drilled a hole in the stock for the Harris bipod stud and attached it using the special adapter from Harris. I reassembled the rifle and added the Sadlak scope mount followed by the throw lever scope rings. Next we adjusted the scope to get Harry the proper eye relief and tighten the rings. The final step was using the bore scope to get the scope sighted in.

With that done, we gathered up the suppressor, 5 boxes of M118LR and headed for the range. First we sighted in the rifle with the iron sights and added the suppressor and repeated the process noting the shift in the sights and noted the data in a small shooting book. Next, we repeated the pattern using the scope rather than iron sights. For someone who hadn’t shot an M14 in years, Harry did ok.

Next, we checked the Mossberg’s ghost ring sights and finally the Taurus. I then explained that Nancy and I were going to Flagstaff to pick up the firearms he’d carry on a day to day basis. Flagstaff wasn’t as fruitful as imagined and we headed to Phoenix to complete the collection. After extensive searching, we completed the set including the 1886, 1892 and 4 Ruger Blackhawks. Finding full power loads for the rifles and revolvers took several more stops and while we got the ammo, it was on the short side.

“Could you measure Harry and call Kirkpatrick?”

“Already done. The gelding should be there when we get home and that Flagstaff dealer will be there tomorrow. What are we going to do for more .45-70 and .45 Colt?”

“Order it off the internet. We should have time; the bill is still in conference committee. Are you sure we have enough primers?”

“You can pick up some more tomorrow although it will mean another trip to Flagstaff.”

“How long did Kirkpatrick say it would take to fill the order?”

“We got lucky; they had the correct size in stock. They’ll ship it UPS.”

The large pistol and large rifle primers ran \$35 per 1,000. We had 15 firearms chambered in .45 Colt (83 $\frac{1}{3}$ %) and 3 chambered in .45-70 (16 $\frac{2}{3}$ %). I bought the primers in those percentages and picked up several more cans of Hodgkin’s Pyrodex. On top of what Nancy had already acquired, we almost needed a powder magazine.

Because we had more of the H&K firearms than we needed I dug out a pair and went to see Harry.

“Have you ever seen either of these?”

“Looks like a fancy M16.”

“But they’re so much better. These were built by H&K.”

“416 & 417? Semiauto versions?”

“Yes to the first, no to the second.”

“You sure didn’t find those leaning up against a post on a street corner.”

“You have that right. We have 25 magazines per rifle. You can load the HK416 with M855A1 and the HK417 with M118LR.”

“Fancy ammo even.”

“Well the M855A1 is the latest issue combat ammo but the M118LR leaves a lot to be desired in a long range round.”

“But you gave me M118LR for my Super Match!”

“That will change if I can buy more Black Hills 175gr. I’ve been buying ammo since that school shooting and so has everyone else. Ammo is almost impossible to find if you’re looking for something specific.”

“Hey you two, you’d better get those rifles in the shelter.”

“What’s up?”

“The conference committee reached a resolution.”

The Assault Weapons Ban – Chapter 3

...reached a resolution earlier today. The result is strikingly similar to the 1994 ban. Senator Dianne Feinstein said the conference committee's resolution represented a good start and promised to revisit the question in the near future. The conference committee agreed on a reprise of the 1994 Ban with no sunset clause.

"I wonder if they allow pre ban mags?"

"We'll have to wait and see exactly what the provisions of the new ban are. Anyway supper is ready so let's eat."

The new law turned out to be exactly the same as the 1994 ban with no sunset clause; except for one provision, firearms registration. All firearms had to be individually registered with local authorizes who would supply those records to the state who would supply them to the BATFE. There were no exceptions, not even for law enforcement. Our single action revolvers and lever action rifles were exempt from the law per se except for the registration requirement.

We decided it didn't make a difference because all those firearms had been purchased on 4473s and 3310.4s. It was only a few minutes to Prescott and we registered the *Cowboy guns* with the Sheriff. The Deputy handling the registrations chuckled and said it seem like everyone these days was a member of the SASS. He also told us where to find full power loads seeing as our revolvers were Ruger Blackhawks and the rifles were new Winchesters. We took his advice and nearly cleaned the seller out. He had price jacked up halfway to the moon. Sometimes having a little money is nice.

We also had cowboy loads that we used becoming familiar with the firearms. We agreed it was better to learn with the less powerful ammo and switch to the full power load when we were comfortable. We accomplished that with 2 500 round cases of cowboy loads and full powered .45-70-405 cartridges.

When Nancy made her first purchase of Pyrodex and primers, she got the Hodgkin Re-loading Book and she and the dealer decided which powder would be best and how much of that powder to use based on the book and the dealers experience. She highlighted those loads in the book. The .45 Colt didn't use 40 grains of Pyrodex and the .45-70 didn't use 70 grains. The pistol and rifle powders weren't interchangeable.

As soon as Osama Obama signed the bill, the jackboots were out in full force looking for illegal magazines and unregistered firearms. They had records from every vendor of large capacity magazines but finding unregistered firearms was a next to impossible task. The 4th amendment was giving them fits. We built in one of the tunnels to serve as a magazine/armory. The actual armory was in the floor of the emergency egress right below the blast hatch and covered with about 3" of sand. It wasn't convenient but achieved what we wanted.

“Good afternoon, I’m Amanda James and I’m Manager at the Aqua Fria Nation Monument.”

“Ms James?”

“I’m really sorry, but I am closest to your acreage. I’ve been tasked with ensuring you don’t have any firearms in violation of the new Federal Assault Weapon Ban.”

“Why you?”

“Most of ATF agents are tied up in Phoenix and Tucson.”

“Well, as you can see, we each have 4 Ruger Blackhawks and Winchester 1886 and 1892 rifles.”

“You’re only wearing 2 revolvers.”

“The 5½” barrels are carried in our pommel bags.”

“Is that a shelter entrance over there?”

“Sure is.”

“Can I search it?”

“Got a warrant?”

“No, but I can get one in Prescott.”

“Ah, what the hell, there’s nothing for you to see,” I said unlocking upper blast door.
“Come and look.”

I gave her a complete tour of the shelter and each tunnel, including the emergency egress.

“What’s the sand for on the floor?”

“We were testing the blast hatch and when it’s opened sand and pea gravel falls down exposing the exit.”

“I see.”

(I really doubt you do, I thought.)

“It appears you’re in compliance for the moment.”

“And what does that mean?”

“Feinstein said she wouldn’t be satisfied until she got all the guns.”

“Does that include the one she carries?”

“What do you mean?”

“From George Orwell’s *Animal Farm*, the final rules were that *All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.*”

“I really don’t know if she carries or not. As I said you’re in compliance for the moment and the Sheriff has a list of your firearms.”

“What did the SHE want?”

“Checking out our firearms. She asked to search the shelter and my first inclination was to tell her to get a warrant. But since there’s nothing to see down there I let her look. And I’ll be damned if she didn’t overlook the most obvious clue.”

“What do you mean?”

“Does that blast hatch drop open or is it raised up?”

“Up, why?”

“I told her it dropped down explaining the sand and pea gravel on floor from an earlier test.”

“You must really be enjoying this game you’re playing with the government.”

“Only so long as it doesn’t come back and bite me on the butt.”

“Do you think the government won’t put 2 and 2 together and come here looking for Assault Weapons?”

“Why would they?”

“Most were acquired from Gallery of Guns and that’s only 15-16 miles away. The remainder either came from there or Phoenix.”

“What’s point? Until they see the light of day they have no reason to suspect me. You paid for the *Cowboy gun* collection and they’re all registered. That Guardsman who sold me the Mk211 doesn’t know my name beyond John Cash. Will the government check

firms who manufacture .50BMG? Maybe; but not anytime soon. We'll just hunker down and grow a garden and Harry will tend to the livestock."

"This world is getting crazier every day. The Congress reached a deal on the fiscal cliff but from what I understand, it is a temporary measure and only lasts until the end of February. They only passed 9 billion of that Super Storm Sandy cleanup request. And Fineswine was partially successful and said she'd be back for more. Her ban has a low priority."

"But no more school shootings?"

"No mass killings anyway."

"It's just a matter of time because the problem is our society is not the existence of firearms. You try to raise a kid right but the government says you can't spank them because it's child abuse. A majority of the action games revolve around shooting and it's easier to buy the kid a game than a rifle and teach them firearm safety rules."

"Don't get started, I've heard it all before and I agree with you."

"I haven't a consulting job in 8 months; I wonder what's going on."

"New construction must be down, especially for commercial buildings."

"I may have to find a job."

"Even with Harry here I don't relish you being gone for an extended time. I've actually been doing well with graphics design work. With everything paid for and no debt, we could easily get by on my earnings. You could take up gardening which I don't seem to have time for. You can use the Ball Blue book if you have any questions. One thing I'd like to see us do is can beef. We could do hamburger patties in wide mouth jars and everything else in regular mouth jars."

"Boiling water or pressure canner?"

"Get 2 of the 30 quart All American pressure canners since they have no seal to wear out. You should probably get a good All American can sealer and several different heads."

After looking at Canning Pantry All American sealers, I searched web for different sized chucks or whatever they called them. I first determined that the price was about \$175 per size. Second, for no more than we'd probably can, the manual flywheel would do nicely. Third, they came in 2 basic sizes, Master and Senior and it wasn't clear to me if one size would do all cans even with a full set of chucks. So, I bought one Master manual and one Senior manual and a whole set of chucks. Then, I learned one had to go to a different source for the cans and lids! Whatever happened to simple?

We didn't have a market weight beef so I bought one and had it processed. I told them to leave everything in front of the rib steaks intact because I'd be canning that. They could turn the ribs through the sirloin into steaks and grind the round into 10% lean. Trimmings should go in the ground meat and I'd take care of the rest.

There was a choice of methods, canning raw beef or canning browned beef. I decided to do the beef chunks raw and the patties browned. I had this huge pile of ground beef which I formed into enough patties for 28 wide mouth quarts. I browned half and stacked them in the jars, following instructions in the book. When I had the first canner ready to go, I set the weight to 15 pounds and started the 90 minute canning process.

Forty five minutes later I started the second canner and sterilized 28 more jars. Then I browned the patties for the third batch and they were in jars waiting when the canner was done. I carefully lifted the jars with a jar lifter and left them to cool off. Next, I started the third canner and returned to the ground beef. I did enough for the remaining 14 jars and left the balance in the refrigerator. When the second canner finished I repeated the unloading process and reloading process and started my last canner of beef patties for the day.

I immediately got 5 cases of regular mouth jars and sterilized them. Next I proceeded to chunk the beef in about 1" cubes and they went into the jars with a teaspoon of salt with a bit of boiling water. That was a whole lot faster than the patties and by the time the 4th canner of patties was done, I had all 56 jars filled with chunked beef. I set the second to cooking and started to watch the clock.

All 112 jars sealed so I'd have to open one to find out what we ended up with. Tomorrow, I'd process the remaining beef and some boneless chicken breasts I'd bought in bulk specifically to can. I figured to can those raw and only had enough for 28 quarts, 6 per jar. There was enough meat to do 4 loads in each canner, a full day of canning. One thing I'd noticed at the store when I picked up the chicken breasts was the prices; they'd gone through the roof. Nancy and I generally shop together and I can't remember when I'd seen a price jump like this.

"I got 112 quarts done today and I'll do another 112 tomorrow. Unless I miss my guess that should finishing the meat canning. I picked up 168 chicken breasts to can and noticed the prices have really gone up. Do know anything that could account for that?"

"I sure don't. Do you think we should order another 10 years for one from our suppliers?"

"Sure couldn't hurt."

"I call first thing tomorrow and we can fill in at Costco in Prescott."

"Why not Sam's Club?"

“I like to alternate. Sam’s is better on some things and Costco better on others.”

“Day after tomorrow I’ll start tilling the garden spot. I’m thinking about 2½ acres.”

“That’s 330’ per side, are you sure?”

“Maybe just one acre then.”

“That’s better. Plant 100’×200’; that’s about 0.46 acre and more than enough for the three of us. Let’s see, potatoes, squash, pumpkins, green beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, plum tomatoes, scallions, Anaheim Chili Peppers, celery, a large slicing tomato like a big boy and green peppers. Anything else?”

“Radishes, snap peas for stir-fry, sweet onions and small cucumbers like gherkins. Acorn and butternut squash?”

“That should do it.”

My back was starting to hurt just thinking about it. I figured on 100’ long rows spaced ~2½’ apart. That’s 80 100’ rows. My God, I’ve created a monster. After the canning was done, I started up the tiller to turn that sand and manure into something that would grow vegetables and fruit. I checked out Canning Pantry after I had the garden in looking for something to process the plum tomatoes into tomato sauce.

I ordered a Deluxe Roma Food Strainer w/ Electric Motor and Screen Set and several 12 count boxes of Mrs. Wages Pasta Sauce Tomato Mix. Each package did 5 pints so 2 packages would do 5 quarts. A canner load was 14 quarts so I’d have to use 6 packages and prepare 15 quarts at a time. I had it figured that when I had processed 14 loads; the leftover quarts would make up a 15th load. Seven boxes of 12 packs of seasoning would be enough for 15 loads and I ordered 14 boxes.

The orders came in but as Nancy pointed out, the prices were higher. We made a trip to both Sam’s and Costco and did a whole lot of filling in. We picked up a new chest freezer on that trip because we had pork to process. The processing plant would pay market for any hogs we wanted to sell so we kept back six for processing and sold them the other six to offset the processing costs.

Two hogs were turned into smoked meats except for the back ribs, the butt and meat scraps. Two hogs would cut up in normal fashion except for the back ribs, the butt and scraps. The last two hogs were added to the butts and meat scraps from the first 4 hogs and made into whole hog sausage. We got money back from the processing plant and filled the new freezer.

Working in the garden and carrying 2 six-guns was incompatible, especially when you were stooped down picking green beans or what not. I sort of figured that if a farmer

wore a gun to town, he only did it when he went and the rest of time he had his gunbelt hanging on a peg or something. Since I didn't want to be that far from a firearm, I wore routinely and hung 'em on a garden post when necessary. It frosted my hind end that I had plenty of semi-autos I couldn't wear.

On another subject, I've read all of the TOM and Jerry stories published. Over the course of time, I noticed TOM has a thing for music in his stories. The most appropriate of all the songs he referred to was one by Mike and the Mechanics, *Silent Running*.

*Can you hear me, can you hear me running?
Can you hear me running, can you hear me calling you?*

*Take the children and yourself
And hide out in the cellar
By now the fighting will be close at hand
Don't believe the church and state
And everything they tell you
Believe in me, I'm with the high command
Can you hear me, can you hear me running?
Can you hear me running, can you hear me calling you?
Can you hear me, can you hear me running?
Can you hear me running, can you hear me calling you?*

*There's a gun and ammunition
Just inside the doorway
Use it only in emergency
Better you should pray to God
The Father and the Spirit
Will guide you and protect from up here*

*Can you hear me, can you hear me running?
Can you hear me running, can you hear me calling you?
Can you hear me, can you hear me running?
Can you hear me running, can you hear me calling you?*

*Swear allegiance to the flag
Whatever flag they offer
Never hint at what you really feel
Teach the children quietly
For some day sons and daughters
Will rise up and fight while we stood still*

*Can you hear me, can you hear me running?
Can you hear me running, can you hear me calling you?
Can you hear me, can you hear me running?
Can you hear me running, can you hear me calling you?*

*Can you hear me running (can you hear me calling you?)
(Can you hear me) hear me calling you?
(Can you hear me running) hear me running babe?
(Can you hear me running) hear me running?
Calling you, calling you*

Someone on Frugal's suggested that song and TOM picked up on if I recall correctly. Don't visit Frugal's much since he took down the Patriot Fiction section without explanation. Other sites sprang up including (www.jerrydyoung.com). TOM didn't get his own site and posts on Jerry's site and Preparedness Center.

Anyway, today I picked green beans, washed them, tipped them and snapped them. When I had enough for two batches, I started them according the Ball book and commenced to tip and snap the rest. I was looking at the gherkins and they're about ready to pickle. I had the Mrs. Wages pickle mixes I bought when I bought the tomato sauces. I went for her quick process mixes in 3 flavors, dill, bread and butter and sweet. The only thing that concerned me was the boiling water bath process. I figured I could leave the weight off the pressure canner. I thought about buying a couple to use as stock pots but Nancy nixed the thought. We did buy 2 multi-use canners - the Victorio Stainless Steel Multi-Use Canner, the ultimate in quality canning stock pots. It comes with a combination water bath or steam canning rack.

Nancy was deeply involved with her company so I had Harry helping with garden. He didn't say anything but I surmised he didn't appreciate helping me. We had a bountiful harvest from the garden and all three freezers were nearly full of meats. We kept our short term supplies at a 3 year level for 1 or a 1 year level for 3.

Congress was fighting over the debt limit, taxes and sequestering spending. About the only thing that wasn't on their agenda was Fineswine's push to strengthen the AWB. I felt that readopting the previous ban was bad enough. But between Obama, Biden and Fineswine, they'd have repealed the 2nd Amendment if they could. They were simply not enough votes to accomplish the task and the NRA had found a case they could use to test the new ban.

The one thing that most people don't know about the Supreme Court is they don't like to rule on the same issue repeatedly. They rely on the principle of *Stare decisis*. The new case was in Federal District court and depending on the outcome would be appealed to Federal Circuit and appealed from Federal Circuit Court to the US Supreme Court. It seemed likely that the Supreme Court would rule for the 2nd Amendment. What part of shall not be infringed don't the anti-gun crowd understand? Those Assault Weapons were exactly the type of weapons the unorganized militia was expected to have if called upon to help the military and National Guard.

Against whom? China was now demanding American citizens be disarmed. Was Russia next? No one would invade the US because we were like Switzerland with a firearm in

nearly every home. Based on the volume of background checks on NCIC, we should actually have more than one firearm per home. The year 2013 was ready to turn to 2014 and 2 things were certain, they hadn't revisited the Assault Weapons Ban and Fineswine would be introducing her same bill again modified to eliminate what had been passed in 2013. Obama who promised he'd sign a ban by 31Jan13 was pushing as hard as he could. He couldn't get the Arms Trade Treaty approved in the Senate either.

One would be inclined to say it was business as usual in the nation's capital, if he didn't know what was going on behind the scenes. Behind the scenes, the president had prepared an Executive Order that would be implemented 15Jan14. He was implementing Fineswine's AWB by executive edict, much as Bush senior had imposed the import ban. It wasn't a question if he could do it; it was a question of could he make it stick.

Apparently we hadn't jumped on the bandwagon any too soon. Further behind the scenes, the BATFE was researching the purchases of large quantities of 9mm, .45acp, 5.56, 7.62 and .50BMG. They had state by state listings of private purchases and when the Executive Order was issued they were going to track down the ammo on the theory that no one would buy large quantities of ammo unless they had a firearm that used the ammo.

Thank goodness we had the side business buying and selling ammo (NOT). They had to find the ammo first and only the 3 of us knew where it was stored. The firearms, except for the *Cowboy guns*, were stored with the ammo and a single case of .45 Colt cowboy loads and a few boxes of .45-70 were stored above ground for rapid access. Harry and I swept up the sand and gravel above the bunker, added a sheet of OSB and poured 2" of concrete. When it cured, we returned the sand and gravel. It might slow us down some but it was better than getting caught with a bunch of unregistered, stolen firearms.

Over the winter, Harry and I moved the garden fence from 10 acres to one acre. It was mostly make work although it gave the livestock more grazing room. Harry suggested that since we had the funds it would probably be better to not farm the pasture and purchase the hay, straw and grain. The only of the three we were purchasing now was the hay so we reseeded the pasture over the remaining foliage and irrigated a little establishing a water meadow. While we didn't generate a lot of manure, Harry set up a set of composting bins and we could add the compost to the garden starting in 2014 and later.

Given the quantity of food we got from those 0.46 acres of garden, in the new fenced 1 acre garden plot, we decided to alternate half acres. The extra space would allow us to plant a small amount of sweet corn, just enough for eating during the season. It was easier to buy frozen corn and peas for the rest of the year. We increased the garden length to 215' which was close to ½ acre.

We also made some additional firearms purchases for Christmas which included 3 1878 side hammer 12 gauge coach guns and 3 Titian derringers in .45 Colt. It was more

about image than usefulness. That said, it was comforting to having a derringer with a .410 shot shell in one barrel and a .45 Colt cartridge in the other barrel.

If you didn't watch the news, or go online to read the news, 2014 came in with a whimper. If you kept up to date, you knew that Fineswine was back at it trying to add the portions of her previous bill that had been dropped in 2013. You also became aware that Obama had signed the ATT. Don't worry, be happy... the Senate will never ratify it; you tell yourself that and then cross your fingers.

At least if the Earp's show up, we have six-guns we can turn in. Whoops, TOM did that one... *Whetstone*. But that was then and this is now and we're around Aqua Fria not Tombstone.

The Arizona Rangers was an Arizona law enforcement agency modeled on the Texas Rangers. The Arizona Rangers were created by the Arizona Territorial Legislature in 1901, disbanded in 1909, and subsequently reformed in 1957. They were created to deal with the infestations of outlaws in the sparsely populated Territory of Arizona, especially along the Mexican border. The rangers was an elite, well-trained, and originally a secretive agency mounted on quality horses and well equipped with modern weapons at the state's expense.

The rangers were very effective in apprehending members of outlaw bands. Originally, only one company was authorized, consisting of a captain, a sergeant and not more than twelve privates, but, in 1903, the force was increased to twenty-six men. The rangers, many of whom in the early years were veterans of Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders, were skilled horsemen, trackers and marksmen. Though originally intended to be covert, the group became widely publicized and conspicuous, sported their badges boldly, and were distinctively well-armed. (They probably had Big Irons.)

When they were disbanded in 1909, one went on to become the Sheriff of Cochise and another became the Warden at Yuma Territorial Prison. I only mention that because the *Sheriff of Cochise*, John Bromfield died in 2005.

The majority of television Westerns were set in the decades following the American Civil War, and the gun of choice was the Colt Single Action Army. In a few rare instances, the action was set in the twentieth-century West, and the actors carried more modern guns. Such was the case with John Bromfield in *Sheriff of Cochise*, a syndicated series set in the contemporary West that changed its name to *US Marshal* in its second season. Bromfield played law enforcement officer Frank Morgan. The show initially depicted Morgan as the Sheriff of Cochise County, Arizona, but in order to allow him to work all over Arizona, he was promoted to a US Marshal, hence the name change. Throughout the series, Bromfield carried a Colt double-action Official Police Model. The actual Sheriff of Cochise, Jack Howard, made Bromfield an Honorary Deputy.

The Assault Weapons Ban – Chapter 4

To keep from getting bogged down here, let's assume you follow the news and know about Fineswine, Biden and Obama. Despite the fact that you didn't own any M1As until you stole one, you're getting very partial to the Super Match and so are Nancy and Harry. You've even let them use the Tac-50, just in case. And everyone has the select fire H&K rifles in case of ambushes. The H&K rifles came with AG-C/EGLMs on all 8 rifles, but we didn't have any 40mm grenades.

"We need some 40mm grenades Boss."

"I agree with Harry, Jim."

"Right, I'll drive down to Phoenix and buy some at a grenade shop."

"No you won't. You leave in early evening and drive to Flagstaff and turn left."

"How far do I go?"

"Stop at the Camp Navajo sign. They have everything there including Minuteman II and Trident I (C4) missiles. The Arizona National Guard trains there and it's their ammo distribution point. Be sneaky, they have the 856th Military Police Company stationed there."

"What am I looking for?"

"Start off with M433 HEDP, add some HE, some M1060 Thermobaric and maybe some Canister. If you find them, take some M583A1 white star parachute flares."

"How do I know what's what?"

"Ammunition packaging varies according to the type of ammunition. The last I knew, packaging was:

- (1) HE, HEDP, and TP. Each box of HE, HEDP, and TP ammunition contains 1 can with 6 bandoleers of 12 rounds each, for a total of 72 rounds.
- (2) Smoke and Cluster Ammunition. Each wire-bound box of smoke and cluster ammunition contains 2 cans with 22 rounds each, for a total of 44 rounds.
- (3) CS Ammunition. Each box of CS ammunition contains 2 cans with 4 bandoleers of 6 rounds each, for a total of 48 rounds.
- (4) Buckshot. Each box of buckshot ammunition contains 12 bandoleers of 6 rounds each, for a total of 72 rounds."

"Might be better if you came with me Harry, to help identify what we need and help haul it to the Suburban and trailer."

“What trailer?”

“We’ll pick up one in Flagstaff.”

“Tonight?”

“It’s as good of time as any.”

“What do you want me to carry?”

“The Taurus and HK416 with the silencer installed. I’ll take the HK417 with silencer installed and my Taurus. We should do the best we can to avoid using the pistols. I have 3 threaded barrels on order with Ti-rant cans and 3 Elite Iron Ruger Mk III Target .22LR which are suppressed and permanently attached to receiver. They should have arrived here by now.”

“Whadya get for ammo?”

“Three cases standard velocity .22LR match. It has enough power to cycle the Mk III. Get your stuff and let’s get going.”

“What did they run you?”

“Double MSRP, unpapered.”

“They’re going to weld you cell door shut and drop the key down a well.”

“Jim, why are we continuing to add firearms?”

“After the first one, the rest are free. Anyway Nancy, they can only hang you once.”

“You be careful.”

“We will. Might get lucky and find some rockets and or hand grenades. I don’t believe we’ll try to haul back a Minuteman II.”

“No, but see if you can find some Javelins.”

“You expect them to attack with armor?”

“I don’t know what to expect. If the fearsome threesome has their way, you’ll need a permit for a sling shot. Do you have any experience with bows?”

“No, but we can get spears and more tomahawks from Cold Steel.”

"I'll keep that in mind. You 2 had better take off, it's sunset. I think I might drive down to Phoenix. What's Cold Steel's address?"

"It's written down on their catalog on my desk. You be careful too. They may actually have guards."

"I will and I have the other address I need so I'll see you in the morning."

What other address? Oh no, not McMillan, I am sure they must have rent-a-cops by now. There was no shortage of capable people in the Phoenix area who had taken Armed Guard Training and due to the break-ins around the state nearly every manufacturer, distributor and retailer now had armed guards 24/7. I checked out Prescott after my last run and they now had 2 on the gate and 2 on patrol on a staggered rotation. I don't care what Nancy gets as long as she gets all the necessary accessories.

"There's a U-Haul lot."

"See an enclosed 6x12?"

"Two."

"It sounds to me like they're overstocked. What say we help them out? Keep your eyes peeled for an armed security guard."

"Don't see one."

"Look at that, one of the 6x12s doesn't have hitch lock."

"Let me hop out and lift the tongue onto your ball. Think you can back up straight or should we switch roles."

"I can handle the Suburban; you just worry about connecting the ball, safety chains and lights to the light connector."

It all turned out to be relatively simple. While Harry and I looted Camp Navajo, Nancy looted McMillan and Cold Steel collecting tomahawks and spears plus an extra Laredo Bowie, a matching folding knife, the matching tomahawk and those long Samburu Spears w/Sheath. Then she went to McMillan. They hemmed and hawed and admitted they had 2 Tac-50s in stock if she'd settle for the available colors and pay in gold. We haven't had a war and McMillan is switching from FRNs to Eagles?

She got the whole nine yards including the suppressors, McCann Night Vision Rails, 16 extra magazines and 2 sets of spare parts kits. If she wanted ammo, they had Hornady 750gr AMAX and few cans of Mk211, \$6 per round. She bought 2,400 rounds of each. She also picked up a SR-556 with extra magazines and 6 cases of M855A1 on stripper clips. When she asked, they told her where to find 5.56 and 7.62 Black Hills BTHP

match. She followed their directions and came to a non-descript house in northern Phoenix. The man was a class III dealer who moved a lot of ammo at gun shows. He also talked her into a PT1911B-1, a Browning Hi-Power classic and 2 Walther PPKs in .380 along with 2 cases of Gold Dot for each pistol.

Nancy had what she wanted and headed north on I-17. Harry and I cased (scouted) Camp Navajo and pinned down where to find what we wanted. The 40mm grenades were stored in 2 bunkers and hand grenades in a third. We located and took 6 AN/PVS-14s and helmets with mounts plus Interceptor Body Armor. Maybe Nancy thought she was pulling a fast one so we have firearms for Harry's girlfriend. However Harry never admitted having girlfriend, although he did. Worse, she actually paid hard money for what she bought.

That pretty much ended the moonlight firearms. In mid-January Obama announced he had issued an EO banning all firearms except for those held by the military and LEOs. All ammo purchased had to be recorded and any purchase involving more than 100 rounds, reported to the BATFE.

"Spend all your money?"

"Quite a bit but not all; I got 2 more Tac-50s fully equipped. I added 4,800 rounds of mixed .50BMG, another PT1911B-1, 2 Browning Hi-Powers, an SR-556, and a Mossberg 590A1 SPX. I also got handgun ammo and 10,000 rounds of Black Hills rifle ammo."

"Where did you find that?"

"A class III dealer who moves a lot of ammo at gun shows. He had some H&K 416s and 417s."

"Did you buy some?"

"Nope."

"Want to go back to Phoenix tomorrow?"

"Sure, we'll spend your gold this time."

"Harry, we're going back Phoenix tomorrow. Anything we can get you?"

"I have list, 6 pairs of Wranglers 36 waist 32 inseam, 12 blue work shirts in size large, a dozen T-shirts, a dozen boxers, same waist and 2 dozen pair of crew socks."

"That it?"

"Well, since you asked, a singlewide mobile home, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths."

“Used ok?”

“As long as it’s clean and in good repair, no.”

“Furniture?”

“Got some in storage and Darlene has what I don’t have.”

“Girl friend?”

“She’s no girl, she’s 51 and she’s a widow. Said her son enlisted in Corps and got his butt shot off in Afghanistan.”

“She ride horses?”

“She said she did.”

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“Harry’s girlfriend’s name is Darlene. She’s a widow and their only son was killed in Afghanistan. Told me she rides horses. Asked me to look into a singlewide.”

“That Air Stream is so small you have to go outside to change your mind.”

“Did you get the Winchesters, Rugers and Cimarron coach gun?”

“Oops.”

“Oops is not good, didn’t you see *Independence Day*?”

“Yeah, yeah, yeah. We’ll do the firearms and ammo tomorrow. We should check with several mobile home park offices. If there’s a single wide for sale, they’d probably know.”

Had we adopted Harry and his girlfriend Darlene? I’d ask Nancy, but she’s on the phone talking to the horse breeder about a 2 mares and another gelding. She’ll probably be on the phone to Laredo next. I was wrong, again.

“You have the 4 Ruger revolvers and both Winchesters in stock? I want them and it will be cash. Give me an hour to get there?”

“You forgot the Titian derringer and 1878 coach gun.”

“I’ll see what he has when I get there, .45 Colt, right? I’ll pick up some of those short .410 shells. Anything else?”

“I’ll come along in case I can find something really needing a home.”

We got a case of Estate brand 2½” .410 bore with no. 7½ shot. He had a Cimarron 1878 side hammer 12 gauge coach gun plus the 2 Winchesters and 4 Rugers. She let me pay. We spotted a mobile home park and checked with the office inquiring about homes for sale. They had 2, both singlewides. One was 3 bedroom 2 bath and the other was 2 bedroom 2 bath. The 2 bedroom model was cleaner and had larger bedrooms. We stopped and shopped for Harry’s clothing and then headed home.

“Here’s your duds. Saw 2 singlewides for sale in Flagstaff. The 2 bedroom 2 bath was newer and nicer. We got Darlene set up for firearms but she’ll have to settle for a Load-ed.”

“Did you buy it?”

“Did I what?”

“Did you buy it?”

“Why would I do a damn fool thing like that?”

“Room and board and \$500 a month and my room ain’t big enough.”

“I’ll talk to Nancy.”

“Uh, Harry expects us to buy the trailer.”

“Room and board and \$500 a month, right?”

“Right.”

“And his room isn’t big enough?”

“Right.”

“You’d better buy it before the price goes up. You’re going to need a trench for utilities and you might as well bury a phone cable while you’re at it.”

“Fine, whatever; but, we are not paying for his satellite TV and Internet connection.”

“I got that project wrapped for the company. The Boss said there was a big bonus check in the mail.”

“Good, we could use a couple of loaves of bread.”

“No, really, five figures.”

“That should be about enough to lay in a 10 year food supply for Darlene.”

“That will give us a 40 year supply for 1. Some of those things only have 25 year shelf life and I’d sure hate to replace them.”

“I agree with you Nancy. Some of the things we’re storing have nearly an infinite shelf life too. We can always start using up the oldest after we’ve replaced it.”

We ordered the food from Rainy Day, Emergency Essentials and Nitro Pak. Harry took 2 days off towards the end of January and they went to Vegas to get married. The president had the BATFE, US Marshals, DEA, Secret Service and FBI focused on getting the guns. They were using the 4473s and 3310.4s to track down the firearms outlawed by the EO.

I was surprised when MSM announced the most popular explanation for the missing guns wasn’t that they fell out of boat but that the guns had been sold in private sales. It seemed that all of the sales had been made from one party to another for cash and nobody got names or ran NCIC checks. The government searches were unrevealing, even with ground penetrating radar.

When firearms were evident, they were older lever action rifles and carbines and single action revolvers. Those particular firearms were exempt from the Ban and the EO. There was every brand you had heard of including Colt, Winchester, Marlin, Ruger, Beretta, Taurus, Uberti, Cimarron, Rossi and so forth.

Meanwhile the NRA and GOA jointly applied to the federal district court for a stay order. It was denied. They moved to the Circuit Court where it was granted. The Attorney General appealed the Circuit Court ruling to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court upheld the Circuit Court. The US Marshals were ordered to enforce the ruling. A stand-off between federal law enforcement then ensued.

The US Marshals Service was formed on September 24, 1789 and it’s the oldest federal agency in existence. They take their orders from the Judiciary, not the Executive or Legislative Branch. The DEA, Secret Service and FBI stood down per the stay order. The BATFE did not. The result was that the BATFE had 2 opponents, the US Marshals Service and We the People. They were outnumbered 100 million to however many BATFE agents they were in excess of the US Marshals Service.

Despite the government actions having occurred over a brief 10 day period, that 100 million were literally up in arms. The firearms that the agencies couldn’t find during those 10 days because they’d been *sold*, or something, had been repurchased, or something. The illegal high capacity magazines were filled to capacity with the appro-

priate cartridges and the BATFE and the Executive Branch were no. 2 and no. 1 on everyone's list. The Executive Branch had protection from the Secret Service, a branch of the Department of Homeland Security.

The President's proposals came in two forms, the first being:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
EMBARGOED UNTIL THE START OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

January 16, 2013

Now Is the Time: The President's Plan to Protect our Children and our Communities by Reducing Gun Violence

Our nation has suffered too much at the hands of dangerous people who use guns to commit horrific acts of violence. As President Obama said following the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, "We won't be able to stop every violent act, but if there is even one thing that we can do to prevent any of these events, we have a deep obligation, all of us, to try."

Most gun owners are responsible and law-abiding, and they use their guns safely. The President strongly believes that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual right to bear arms. But to better protect our children and our communities from tragic mass shootings like those in Newtown, Aurora, Oak Creek, and Tucson, there are four common-sense steps we can take right now.

The President's plan includes:

1. Closing background check loopholes to keep guns out of dangerous hands;
2. Banning military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and taking other common-sense steps to reduce gun violence;
3. Making schools safer; and
4. Increasing access to mental health services.

While no law or set of laws will end gun violence, it is clear that the American people want action. If even one child's life can be saved, then we need to act. Now is the time to do the right thing for our children, our communities, and the country we love.

1. CLOSING BACKGROUND CHECK LOOPHOLES TO KEEP GUNS OUT OF DANGEROUS HANDS

Most gun owners buy their guns legally and use them safely, whether for self-defense, hunting or sport shooting. Yet too often, irresponsible and dangerous individuals have been able to easily get their hands on firearms. We must strengthen our efforts to keep guns from falling into the wrong hands.

REQUIRE BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL GUN SALES: The single most important thing we can do to prevent gun violence and mass shootings, like the one in Newtown, is to make sure those who would commit acts of violence cannot get access to guns. A critical tool in achieving that goal is the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which was created by the Brady Act to ensure that guns are not sold to those prohibited from buying them, including felons and those convicted of domestic violence. Over the last 14 years it has helped keep more than 1.5 million guns out of the wrong hands. It is able to make 92 percent of background check determinations on the spot. However, too many guns are still sold without a background check and too many individuals prohibited from having a gun slip through the cracks. We need to strengthen the system by requiring every gun buyer to go through a background check and ensuring that the background check system has complete information on people prohibited from having guns. We should:

- **Require criminal background checks for all gun sales:** Right now, federally licensed firearms dealers are required to run background checks on those buying guns, but studies estimate that nearly 40 percent of all gun sales are made by private sellers who are exempt from this requirement. A national survey of inmates found that only 12 percent of those who used a gun in a crime acquired it from a retail store or pawn shop, where a background check should have been run. Congress should pass legislation that goes beyond just closing the “gun show loophole” to require background checks for all firearm sales, with limited, common-sense exceptions for cases like certain transfers between family members and temporary transfers for hunting and sporting purposes.
- **Call on licensed dealers and private sellers to do their part through executive action:** Private sellers can already choose to sell their guns through licensed dealers so the dealer can run a background check on the buyer, and the Administration is calling on them to do so. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) will send an open letter to licensed dealers giving them guidance on how best to facilitate these checks.

STRENGTHEN THE BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM: The background check system is the most efficient and effective way to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals, but we need to make sure it has access to complete information about these individuals. For example, although the number of mental health records available to the system has increased by 800 percent since 2004, a recent report by the Government Accountability Office found that there are still 17 states that have made fewer than 10 mental health records available. We need to make sure reliable data on prohibited purchasers is available to the background check system. The Administration is announcing four new executive actions to enhance the system’s ability to identify dangerous people and stop them from getting guns:

- **Address unnecessary legal barriers that prevent states from reporting information about those prohibited from having guns:** Some states have cited concerns about restrictions under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act as a reason not

to share relevant information on people prohibited from gun ownership for mental health reasons. The Administration will begin the regulatory process to remove any needless barriers, starting by gathering information about the scope and extent of the problem.

- Improve incentives for states to share information with the background check system: States are a critical source for several key categories of relevant records and data, including criminal history records and records of persons prohibited from having guns for mental health reasons. The Department of Justice will invest \$20 million in FY2013 to give states stronger incentives to make this data available. The Administration is also proposing \$50 million for this purpose in FY2014, and will look for additional ways to ensure that states are doing their part to provide relevant information.

- Hold federal agencies accountable for sharing reliable information with the background check system: Some federal agencies also have relevant records. The President is issuing a Presidential Memorandum holding agencies to requirements that they identify these records, make them available to the background check system, and regularly report that those records are complete and up-to-date.

- Make sure dangerous people are prohibited from having guns: The background check system is designed to keep guns out of the hands of those forbidden by law to have them. But we need to make sure our laws are effective at identifying the dangerous or untrustworthy individuals that should not have access to guns. The President will direct the Attorney General, in consultation with other relevant agencies, to review the laws governing who is prohibited from having guns and make legislative and executive recommendations to ensure dangerous people aren't slipping through the cracks.

2. BANNING MILITARY-STYLE ASSAULT WEAPONS AND HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINES, AND TAKING OTHER COMMON-SENSE STEPS TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

We need to do more to prevent easy access to instruments of mass violence. We also need to provide law enforcement with additional tools to prevent gun violence, end the freeze on gun violence research, make sure health care providers know they can report credible threats of violence and talk to their patients about gun safety, and promote responsible gun ownership.

GET MILITARY-STYLE ASSAULT WEAPONS AND HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINES OFF THE STREETS: A 2010 survey by the Police Executive Research Forum found that more than one-third of police departments reported an increase in criminals' use of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines since the prohibition on high-capacity magazines and assault weapons expired in 2004. To protect law enforcement and enhance public safety, we must redouble our efforts to:

- Reinstate and strengthen the ban on assault weapons: The shooters in Aurora and Newtown used the type of semiautomatic rifles that were the target of the assault weapons ban that was in place from 1994 to 2004. That ban was an important step, but man-

ufacturers were able to circumvent the prohibition with cosmetic modifications to their weapons. Congress must reinstate and strengthen the prohibition on assault weapons.

- Limit ammunition magazines to 10 rounds: The case for prohibiting high-capacity magazines has been proven over and over; the shooters at Virginia Tech, Tucson, Aurora, Oak Creek, and Newtown all used magazines holding more than 10 rounds, which would have been prohibited under the 1994 law. These magazines enable any semiautomatic weapon to be used as an instrument of mass violence, yet they are once again legal and now come standard with many handguns and rifles. Congress needs to reinstate the prohibition on magazines holding more than 10 rounds.
- Finish the job of getting armor-piercing bullets off the streets: It is already illegal to manufacture and import armor-piercing ammunition except for military or law enforcement use. But it is generally still not illegal to possess or transfer this dangerous ammunition. Congress should finish the job of protecting law enforcement and the public by banning the possession of armor-piercing ammunition by, and its transfer to, anyone other than the military and law enforcement.

GIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT ADDITIONAL TOOLS TO PREVENT AND PROSECUTE GUN CRIME: In order to prevent and respond to gun violence, we must give law enforcement every tool they need to keep us safe. That includes passing stronger laws to stop those who would put guns into the hands of criminals, keeping 15,000 cops on the street, and eliminating restrictions that keep federal law enforcement from doing its job.

- Create serious punishments for gun trafficking: Today, criminals can easily buy guns from unlicensed dealers, or acquire them with the help of so-called “straw purchasers” who pass the required background check to buy guns from licensed dealers. But there is no explicit law against straw purchasing, so straw purchasers and others who traffic guns can often only be prosecuted for paperwork violations. We cannot allow those who help put guns into the hands of criminals to get away with just a slap on the wrist. Congress should close these loopholes with new gun trafficking laws that impose serious penalties for these crimes.
- Help communities across the country keep 15,000 cops on the street: One of the most important steps we can take to reduce gun violence is to keep police officers at their posts in our neighborhoods and communities. The President is calling on Congress to act on the Administration’s \$4 billion proposal to help keep 15,000 cops on the street in cities and towns across the country.
- Take executive action to enhance tracing data: When law enforcement recovers a gun during a criminal investigation, they can trace that gun’s path from its manufacturer, to the dealer who sold it, to its first purchaser. This gun tracing process helps law enforcement solve violent crimes by generating leads in specific cases and can reveal gun trafficking patterns when large amounts of tracing data is combined. However, not all federal law enforcement agencies are uniformly required to trace all guns they recover

and keep in custody. The President will issue a Presidential Memorandum requiring them to trace all such firearms.

- Take executive action to help law enforcement avoid returning guns to the wrong hands: Law enforcement should never be put in the position of unknowingly returning a gun to an individual who is prohibited from having it. Currently, when law enforcement must return firearms seized as part of an investigation, they do not have the ability to conduct a full background check on the owner. The Administration will propose regulations to ensure that law enforcement has access to the database needed for complete background checks.
- Finally give the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) a confirmed director: The ATF has not had a confirmed director for six years. There is no excuse for leaving the key agency enforcing gun laws in America without a leader. It is time for Congress to confirm an ATF director.
- Eliminate restrictions that force the ATF to authorize importation of dangerous weapons simply because of their age: ATF is required to authorize the importation of certain “curio or relic” firearms, and outdated regulations include all firearms manufactured more than 50 years ago in the definition of “curio or relic.” But today, firearms manufactured more than 50 years ago include large numbers of semiautomatic military-surplus rifles, some of which are easily convertible into machine guns or otherwise appealing for use in crime. Congress should get rid of restrictions that prevent ATF from changing this definition, enabling ATF to ensure that firearms imported as curios or relics are actually of interest as collectibles, rather than letting these rules be used as a way to acquire fully functional and powerful military weapons.
- Maximize enforcement efforts to prevent gun violence and prosecute gun crime: The Attorney General will work with all United States Attorneys to continue to ensure that every appropriate resource is focused on preventing gun violence. To this end, the Attorney General will ask all U.S. Attorneys to consider whether supplemental efforts would be appropriate in their districts, in areas such as prosecutions of people who have been convicted of a felony and illegally seek to obtain a firearm, or people who attempt to evade the background check system by providing false information.
- Analyze information on lost and stolen guns and make it widely available to law enforcement: The Department of Justice will publish an annual report on lost and stolen guns to ensure that data collected by ATF is available. This report will include state-by-state statistics about guns reported as missing. Making this data available will provide valuable information to law enforcement about how to target its resources, and give states and cities the information they need to pass laws and take other effective steps to make sure that lost and stolen guns are reported. The Department will also identify best practices that are working today and encourage states and cities to follow those models.
- Provide effective training for active shooter situations for 14,000 law enforcement officers, first responders, and school officials: One of the best ways to minimize the loss of

life in a mass shooting is to make sure law enforcement, first responders, school officials, and others are prepared to respond to an active shooter. The Administration will immediately expand access to federal training, and federal agencies will ensure that protocols for responding to active shooter situations are consistent. And Congress should provide an additional \$14 million to help train 14,000 more police officers and other public and private personnel to respond to active shooter situations.

END THE FREEZE ON GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH: There are approximately 30,000 firearm-related homicides and suicides a year, a number large enough to make clear this is a public health crisis. But for years, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other scientific agencies have been barred by Congress from using funds to “advocate or promote gun control,” and some members of Congress have claimed this prohibition also bans the CDC from conducting any research on the causes of gun violence. However, research on gun violence is not advocacy; it is critical public health research that gives all Americans information they need.

- Conduct research on the causes and prevention of gun violence, including links between video games, media images, and violence: The President is issuing a Presidential Memorandum directing the Centers for Disease Control and scientific agencies to conduct research into the causes and prevention of gun violence. It is based on legal analysis that concludes such research is not prohibited by any appropriations language. The CDC will start immediately by assessing existing strategies for preventing gun violence and identifying the most pressing research questions, with the greatest potential public health impact. And the Administration is calling on Congress to provide \$10 million for the CDC to conduct further research, including investigating the relationship between video games, media images, and violence.

- Better understand how and when firearms are used in violent death: To research gun violence prevention, we also need better data. When firearms are used in homicides or suicides, the National Violent Death Reporting System collects anonymous data, including the type of firearm used, whether the firearm was stored loaded or locked, and details on youth gun access. Congress should invest an additional \$20 million to expand this system from the 18 states currently participating to all 50 states, helping Americans better understand how and when firearms are used in a violent death and informing future research and prevention strategies.

PRESERVE THE RIGHTS OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO PROTECT THEIR PATIENTS AND COMMUNITIES FROM GUN VIOLENCE: We should never ask doctors and other health care providers to turn a blind eye to the risks posed by guns in the wrong hands.

- Clarify that no federal law prevents health care providers from warning law enforcement authorities about threats of violence: Doctors and other mental health professionals play an important role in protecting the safety of their patients and the broader community by reporting direct and credible threats of violence to the authorities. But there is public confusion about whether federal law prohibits such reports about threats of vio-

lence. The Department of Health and Human Services is issuing a letter to health care providers clarifying that no federal law prohibits these reports in any way.

- Protect the rights of health care providers to talk to their patients about gun safety: Doctors and other health care providers also need to be able to ask about firearms in their patients' homes and safe storage of those firearms, especially if their patients show signs of certain mental illnesses or if they have a young child or mentally ill family member at home. Some have incorrectly claimed that language in the Affordable Care Act prohibits doctors from asking their patients about guns and gun safety. Medical groups also continue to fight against state laws attempting to ban doctors from asking these questions. The Administration will issue guidance clarifying that the Affordable Care Act does not prohibit or otherwise regulate communication between doctors and patients, including about firearms.

ENCOURAGE GUN OWNERS TO LIVE UP TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO STORE GUNS SAFELY: The President believes that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual right to bear arms, and he respects our nation's rich hunting and sport shooting traditions and the millions of responsible Americans who participate in them every year. But this right comes with a responsibility to safely store guns to prevent them from accidentally or intentionally being used to harm others. The Administration is encouraging gun owners to take responsibility for keeping their guns safe and encouraging the development of technology that will make it easier for gun owners to meet this responsibility, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission is assessing the need for new standards for gun locks.

- Launch a national responsible gun ownership campaign: The Administration will encourage gun owners to take responsibility for keeping their guns safe with a national campaign. The campaign will promote common-sense gun safety measures like the use of gun safes and trigger locks, separate storage of guns and ammunition, and the reporting of lost and stolen weapons to law enforcement.

- Review and enhance as warranted safety standards for gun locks and gun safes: We also need to make sure that gun locks and gun safes work as intended. Several gun locks have been subject to recall due to their failure to function properly; that is not acceptable. The Chair of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) intends to review the effectiveness of gun locks and gun safes, including existing voluntary industry standards, and take any steps that may be warranted to improve the standards as well as to protect the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death that arise when those products within the CPSC's jurisdiction fail.

- Encourage the development of innovative gun safety technology: Despite rapid advances in technologies in recent years, there are few readily available firearms that utilize these new technologies to help guard against unauthorized access and use. The President is directing the Attorney General to work with technology experts to review existing and emerging gun safety technologies, and to issue a report on the availability and use of those technologies. In addition, the Administration will issue a challenge to

the private sector to develop innovative and cost-effective gun safety technology and provide prizes for those technologies that are proven to be reliable and effective.

3. MAKING SCHOOLS SAFER

We need to make our schools safer, not only by enhancing their physical security and making sure they are prepared to respond to emergencies like a mass shooting, but also by creating safer and more nurturing school climates that help prevent school violence. Each school is different and should have the flexibility to address its most pressing needs. Some schools will want trained and armed police; others may prefer increased counseling services. Either way, each district should be able to choose what is best to protect its own students.

PUT UP TO 1,000 MORE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS AND COUNSELORS IN SCHOOLS AND HELP SCHOOLS INVEST IN SAFETY: Putting school resource officers and mental health professionals in schools can help prevent school crime and student-on-student violence. School resource officers are specially trained police officers that work in schools. When equipped with proper training and supported by evidence-based school discipline policies, they can deter crime with their presence and advance community policing objectives. Their roles as teachers and counselors enable them to develop trusting relationships with students that can result in threats being detected and crises averted before they occur. School psychologists, social workers, and counselors can help create a safe and nurturing school climate by providing mental health services to students who need help. Not every school will want police officers or additional school counselors, but we should do what we can to help schools get the staff they determine they need to stay safe.

- Take executive action to provide incentives for schools to hire school resource officers: COPS Hiring Grants, which help police departments hire officers, can already be used by departments to fund school resource officers. This year, the Department of Justice will provide an incentive for police departments to hire these officers by providing a preference for grant applications that support school resource officers.
- Put up to 1,000 new school resource officers and school counselors on the job: The Administration is proposing a new Comprehensive School Safety program, which will help school districts hire staff and make other critical investments in school safety. The program will give \$150 million to school districts and law enforcement agencies to hire school resource officers, school psychologists, social workers, and counselors. The Department of Justice will also develop a model for using school resource officers, including best practices on age-appropriate methods for working with students.
- Invest in other strategies to make our schools safer: School districts could also use these Comprehensive School Safety Grants to purchase school safety equipment; develop and update public safety plans; conduct threat assessments; and train “crisis intervention teams” of law enforcement officers to work with the mental health community

to respond to and assist students in crisis. And the General Services Administration will use its purchasing power to help schools buy safety equipment affordably.

ENSURE EVERY SCHOOL HAS A COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN: In the unthinkable event of another school shooting, it is essential that schools have in place effective and reliable plans to respond. A 2010 survey found that while 84 percent of public schools had a written response plan in the event of a shooting, only 52 percent had drilled their students on the plan in the past year. We must ensure that every school has a high-quality plan in place and that students and staff are prepared to follow it.

- Give schools and other institutions a model for how to develop and implement reliable plans: The Departments of Education, Justice, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security will release—by May 2013—a set of model, high-quality emergency management plans for schools, houses of worship, and institutions of higher education, along with best practices for developing these plans and training students and staff to follow them. In addition, the Department of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Department of Justice, will assist interested schools, houses of worship, and institutions of higher education in completing their own security assessments.

- Help schools develop and implement emergency plans: Congress should provide \$30 million of one-time grants to states to help their school districts develop and implement emergency management plans. But schools also need to take responsibility for getting effective plans in place. Going forward, Congress should require states and school districts that receive school safety funding from the Department of Education to have comprehensive, up-to-date emergency plans in place for all of their schools.

CREATE A SAFER CLIMATE AT SCHOOLS ACROSS THE COUNTRY: A report issued by the U.S. Secret Service and the Department of Education after the Columbine shooting found that one of the best things schools can do to reduce violence and bullying is to improve a school's climate and increase trust and communication between students and staff. Fortunately, we already have evidence-based strategies which have been found to reduce bullying and other problem behaviors like drug abuse or poor attendance, while making students feel safer at school and improving academic performance.

- Help 8,000 schools create safer and more nurturing school climates: With technical assistance from the Department of Education, 18,000 schools have already put in place evidence-based strategies to improve school climate. These strategies involve certain steps for the whole school (like consistent rules and rewards for good behavior), with more intensive steps for groups of students exhibiting at-risk behavior, and individual services for students who continue to exhibit troubling behavior. The Administration is proposing a new, \$50 million initiative to help 8,000 more schools train their teachers and other school staff to implement these strategies. The Administration will also develop a school climate survey, providing reliable data to help schools implement policies to improve climate.

- Share best practices on school discipline: Students who are suspended or expelled are far more likely to repeat a grade, not graduate, or become involved in the juvenile justice system. As a result, effective school discipline policies are critical to addressing school and community crime and violence issues. The Department of Education will collect and disseminate best practices on school discipline policies and help school districts develop and equitably implement their policies.

4. IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

As President Obama said, “We are going to need to work on making access to mental health care as easy as access to a gun.” Today, less half of children and adults with diagnosable mental health problems receive the treatment they need. While the vast majority of Americans with a mental illness are not violent, several recent mass shootings have highlighted how some cases of mental illness can develop into crisis situations if individuals do not receive proper treatment. We need to do more than just keep guns out of the hands of people with serious mental illness; we need to identify mental health issues early and help individuals get the treatment they need before these dangerous situations develop.

MAKE SURE STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS GET TREATMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES: Three-quarters of mental illnesses appear by the age of 24, yet less than half of children with diagnosable mental health problems receive treatment. And several recent mass shootings, including those at Newtown, Tucson, Aurora, and Virginia Tech, were perpetrated by students or other young people.

- Reach 750,000 young people through programs to identify mental illness early and refer them to treatment: We need to train teachers and other adults who regularly interact with students to recognize young people who need help and ensure they are referred to mental health services. The Administration is calling for a new initiative, Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education), to provide this training and set up systems to provide these referrals. This initiative, which would reach 750,000 young people, has two parts:

- Provide “Mental Health First Aid” training for teachers: Project AWARE includes \$15 million for training for teachers and other adults who interact with youth to detect and respond to mental illness in children and young adults, including how to encourage adolescents and families experiencing these problems to seek treatment.

- Make sure students with signs of mental illness get referred to treatment: Project AWARE also includes \$40 million to help school districts work with law enforcement, mental health agencies, and other local organizations to assure students with mental health issues or other behavioral issues are referred to the services they need. This initiative builds on strategies that, for over a decade, have proven to decrease violence in schools and increase the number of students receiving mental health services.

- Support individuals ages 16 to 25 at high risk for mental illness: Efforts to prevent school shootings and other gun violence can't end when a student leaves high school. Individuals ages 16 to 25 are at high risk for mental illness, substance abuse, and suicide, but they are among the least likely to seek help. Even those who received services as a child may fall through the cracks when they turn 18. The Administration is proposing \$25 million for innovative state-based strategies supporting young people ages 16 to 25 with mental health or substance abuse issues.
- Helping schools address pervasive violence: Twenty-two percent of 14 to 17 year olds have witnessed a shooting in their lifetime. Research shows that exposure to community violence can impact children's mental health and development and can substantially increase the likelihood that these children will later commit violent acts themselves. To help schools break the cycle of violence, Congress should provide \$25 million to offer students mental health services for trauma or anxiety, conflict resolution programs, and other school-based violence prevention strategies.
- Train more than 5,000 additional mental health professionals to serve students and young adults: Experts often cite the shortage of mental health service providers as one reason it can be hard to access treatment. To help fill this gap, the Administration is proposing \$50 million to train social workers, counselors, psychologists, and other mental health professionals. This would provide stipends and tuition reimbursement to train more than 5,000 mental health professionals serving young people in our schools and communities.
- Launch a national conversation to increase understanding about mental health: The sense of shame and secrecy associated with mental illness prevents too many people from seeking help. The President is directing Secretaries Sebelius and Duncan to launch a national dialogue about mental illness with young people who have experienced mental illness, members of the faith community, foundations, and school and business leaders.

ENSURE COVERAGE OF MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT: While most mental illnesses are treatable, those with mental illness often can't get needed treatment if they don't have health insurance that covers mental health services. The Affordable Care Act will provide one of the largest expansions of mental health coverage in a generation by extending health coverage to 30 million Americans, including an estimated 6 to 10 million people with mental illness. The Affordable Care Act will also make sure that Americans can get the mental health treatment they need by ensuring that insurance plans cover mental health benefits at parity with other benefits.

- Finalize requirements for private health insurance plans to cover mental health services: The Administration will issue final regulations governing how existing group health plans that offer mental health services must cover them at parity under the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. In addition, the Affordable Care Act requires all new small group and individual plans to cover ten essential health benefit categories, including mental health and substance abuse services. The Administration

intends to issue next month the final rule defining these essential health benefits and implementing requirements for these plans to cover mental health benefits at parity with medical and surgical benefits.

- Make sure millions of Americans covered by Medicaid get quality mental health coverage: Medicaid is already the biggest funder of mental health services, and the Affordable Care Act will extend Medicaid coverage to as many as 17 million hardworking Americans. There is some evidence that Medicaid plans are not always meeting mental health parity requirements today, an issue that will only become more important as Medicaid is expanded. The Administration is issuing a letter to state health officials making clear that these plans must comply with mental health parity requirements.

Part 2 was the list of 23 Executive Actions:

The full list of executive actions provided by the White House includes:

1. Issue a Presidential Memorandum to require federal agencies to make relevant data available to the federal background check system.
2. Address unnecessary legal barriers, particularly relating to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, that may prevent states from making information available to the background check system.
3. Improve incentives for states to share information with the background check system.
4. Direct the Attorney General to review categories of individuals prohibited from having a gun to make sure dangerous people are not slipping through the cracks.
5. Propose rulemaking to give law enforcement the ability to run a full background check on an individual before returning a seized gun.
6. Publish a letter from ATF to federally licensed gun dealers providing guidance on how to run background checks for private sellers.
7. Launch a national safe and responsible gun ownership campaign.
8. Review safety standards for gun locks and gun safes (Consumer Product Safety Commission).
9. Issue a Presidential Memorandum to require federal law enforcement to trace guns recovered in criminal investigations.
10. Release a DOJ report analyzing information on lost and stolen guns and make it widely available to law enforcement.
11. Nominate an ATF director.
12. Provide law enforcement, first responders, and school officials with proper training for active shooter situations.
13. Maximize enforcement efforts to prevent gun violence and prosecute gun crime.

14. Issue a Presidential Memorandum directing the Centers for Disease Control to research the causes and prevention of gun violence.
15. Direct the Attorney General to issue a report on the availability and most effective use of new gun safety technologies and challenge the private sector to develop innovative technologies
16. Clarify that the Affordable Care Act does not prohibit doctors asking their patients about guns in their homes.
17. Release a letter to health care providers clarifying that no federal law prohibits them from reporting threats of violence to law enforcement authorities.
18. Provide incentives for schools to hire school resource officers.
19. Develop model emergency response plans for schools, houses of worship and institutions of higher education.
20. Release a letter to state health officials clarifying the scope of mental health services that Medicaid plans must cover.
21. Finalize regulations clarifying essential health benefits and parity requirements within ACA exchanges.
22. Commit to finalizing mental health parity regulations.
23. Launch a national dialogue led by Secretaries Sebelius and Duncan on mental health.

The President was reaching far beyond the powers of his office as set forth in the Constitution. Then there were the various polls, none particularly consistent with others. Those of us of the Gun Culture decidedly favored the polls conducted by Fox News. I'd seen a picture on the web that pretty much summarized the position of the Gun Culture:

The picture reminded me of Rudyard Kipling's 1888 novella "The Man Who Would Be King". The movie starred Sean Connery and Michael Caine. The narrator of the story is a British journalist in India—Kipling himself, in all but name. While on a tour of some Indian native states he meets two scruffy adventurers, Daniel Dravot and Peachey Carnehan. He rather likes them, but then stops them from blackmailing a minor rajah. A few months later they appear at his office in Lahore. They tell him their plan. They have been "Soldier, sailor, compositor [typesetter], photographer... [railroad] engine-drivers, petty contractors," and more, and have decided India is not big enough for them. The next day they will go off to Kafiristan to set themselves up as kings. Dravot can pass as a native, and they have twenty Martini-Henry rifles (then perhaps the best in the world). They plan to find a king or chief, help him defeat his enemies then take over for themselves. They ask the narrator for the use of any books or maps of the area—as a favor, because they are fellow Freemasons, and because he spoiled their blackmail scheme.

Two years later, on a scorching hot summer night, Carnehan creeps into the narrator's office. He is a broken man, a crippled beggar clad in rags and he tells an amazing story.

Dravot and Carnehan succeeded in becoming kings: finding the Kafirs, who turn out to be white ("so hairy and white and fair it was just shaking hands with old friends"), mustering an army, taking over villages, and dreaming of building a unified nation. The Kafirs, who were pagans, not Muslims, acclaimed Dravot as a god (the son of Alexander the Great). The Kafirs practiced a form of Masonic ritual and the adventurers knew Masonic secrets that only the oldest priest remembered.

Their schemes were dashed when Dravot decided to marry a Kafir girl. Terrified at marrying a god, the girl bit Dravot when he tried to kiss her. Seeing him bleed, the priests cried that he was "Neither God nor Devil but a man!" Most of the Kafirs turned against Dravot and Carnehan. One chief (whom they have nicknamed "Billy Fish") and a few of his men remained loyal, but the army defected and the two kings were captured. Dravot, wearing his crown, stood on a rope bridge over a gorge while the Kafirs cut the ropes, and he fell to his death. Carnehan was crucified between two pine trees. When he survived for a day, the Kafirs considered it a miracle and let him go. He begged his way back to India. As proof of his tale, Carnehan shows the narrator Dravot's head, still wearing the golden crown. Carnehan leaves. The next day the narrator sees him crawling along the road in the noon sun, with his hat off and gone mad. The narrator sends him to the local asylum. When he inquires two days later, he learns that Carnehan has died of sunstroke. No belongings were found with him.



The story is fill-in; the point was the title of the story. Should we now expect Obama to call for the repeal of the 22nd Amendment? Don't confuse it with the 25th, the 22nd set term limits for the President while the 25th allowed a President to fill a vacancy in the Vice Presidency, like Nixon replaced Agnew with Gerald Ford. The 22nd arose because of FDR serving 3 and a fraction terms. His 4th election was extraordinary, given his health. I didn't know Obama smoked and was under the impression that he drank homebrew, not Red Bull. Wait, smoking was an issue in 2008 or 2009, wasn't it?

I'd never had mouth another man's drink, but Red Bull is just a cheap imported energy drink. I rather drink G2 or PowerAde. Jack Daniel's Single Barrel is a real man's drink.

The Assault Weapons Ban – Chapter 5

“Damn, this doesn’t look good.”

“I agree, what are we going to do?”

“Buy several of those gun cases TOM recommends made by Plano like the Pro-Max Double Gun cases for long guns and the 108030 All Weather Extra-Large Pistol/Accessories Case for the handguns.”

“What about the Rugers and Winchesters?”

“What about them... I’m still going to carry them. I do think we’d be better off if we rode the horses more often.”

“Why... oh the rifle scabbards?”

“Right on. Full powered .45 Colt from the 1892’s and full powered .45-70s will match whatever we go up against except full auto.”

“We have sniper rifles. How do they figure in your plans? We aren’t that far from I-17, but if you’re thinking about moving vehicles, I have my doubts.”

“It’s not time for that yet, the Arizona Legislature hasn’t decided which side to take, the governments or the peoples. It started with a dozen and quickly grew to 27. While the number of states that passed laws prohibiting following federal law, the number of people represented by those 27 states is only 40-odd percent of the population. I don’t want you to think I’m chicken... but I’d rather be in the majority than the minority.”

“I suppose you’re right. I think trouble will find us without our going looking. Do you plan on buying Darlene a Super Match?”

“Are they still available?”

“We could check Gallery of Guns.”

“And if they don’t have one?”

“Springfield Armory Inc. I rather suspect they’re cranking them out 24/7. Magazines shouldn’t be a problem because of Camp Navajo.”

“Then we’ll all have the same firearms except for the Tac-50s?”

“If we can’t get her a Tac-50, what else should we look for?”

“A Tac-338 or Tac-300. I don’t care for the Tac-416 since it’s a single shot. Either rifle will get us out to almost a mile. The .338 Lapua cartridge will outshoot the .300 Winchester Magnum so we’ll try to get one of those, equipped the same as our Tac-50. If they had a Tac-50A1R2, it would be ideal due to the reduced recoil.”

“When do you want to go shopping?”

“Tomorrow morning. I wonder if McMillan has anymore of the Mk211.”

“I don’t recall seeing any more but they had a lot of the 750gr Hornady AMAX Match for \$6/round.”

We got what we went for from McMillan including the Hornady and Mk211. It wasn’t on display because it was a destructive device. We laid over a day for them to assemble the order and install Elite Iron suppressor, a Nightforce NXS 12-42x56mm scope and the AN/PVS-27. The ammo was concealed in plain brown boxes. We also picked up 160 rounds of Barrett M-33 for Darlene to get the rifle broken in.

“Three more states adopted the laws banning the feds from operating in their states.”

“That makes 30. How much of population is represented?”

“Forty-nine and a fraction percent.”

“One more state should do it.”

“Depending on the state. Arizona adopted the law. Obama apparently activated the active duty military.”

“Did you hear?”

“Yeah. You want me to get on the phone to our suppliers?”

“That might not hurt. Use Walton and get 8 one year deluxe packages and have them ship by hot shot freight.”

“I’ll do that. Why don’t you contact Hornady about more .50 caliber and Black Hills about more 5.56 and 7.62 match?”

“I’ll try; but Hornady says they don’t take customer orders.”

“Ask them to ship it to a local dealer and contact the dealer to arrange shipping and handling. How are we on handgun and shotgun ammo?”

"I'll call Lewiston for the handgun ammo and ask the dealer to order the Brenneke Black Magic slugs and Remington Magnum Express 3" 00 and no. 4 buckshot."

"You think you can get it?"

"It depends on the size of the order. I'm pretty sure I can."

"What was that you said some time back about being an ammo dealer?"

"I was referring to the government tracking ammunition sales on the assumption that they could tell what you had for firearms by the ammo you bought. After thinking it over, I got a Federal Firearms License. As we got ammo in, I made up dummy receipts covering the sales."

"I thought you said NOT."

"I did. I changed my mind. As of the moment, we're just like the other ammo dealers, out of stock on everything except .45 Colt and .45-70."

"Won't they track credit card receipts?"

"Cash only. That lets me record the sales as cash sales. Remember, not all of the ammo was purchased. None of the assault weapons were purchased. Plus she messed up and didn't include Main Battle Rifles like the M1A and PTR-91 series. Get this... it does include the Hi-Point Carbine; HK-91, HK-93, HK-94, HK-PSG-1 and HK USC.

"I read somewhere that she selected the firearms specifically named by looking at pictures, the same as she did when she worked up the '94 Ban. Unfortunately, by reducing the number of extra features to one, she and the AFT can argue that the California legal muzzle brake is the extra feature and ban the M1As."

"So where do the Tac-50s fit into the scheme of things?"

"They're primarily a military weapon, but bolt action with a removable 5-round magazine. My guess would be that she'll attempt to include them by caliber. She can't get all of the large caliber sniper rifles but she can get most. You didn't have to fill out any paperwork when you bought those from McMillan, did you?"

"They listed the sales to 'Mrs. Gold'. We essentially have all of our modern firearms unregistered."

"TOM would be proud of us."

"Why?"

"He said he never met a gun law he didn't want to break. I wonder if he's still around."

“Don’t go looking him up just because we know where he lives.”

“You think he’s still in Palmdale?”

“I don’t know and frankly don’t care. We need people like him to attract the attention from those of us who can actually make a difference.”

“He said he gave all of his firearms to his son. Dollars to donuts he’ll make them get a warrant to search for his firearms. Unless, of course, King Obama repeals the 4th Amendment; he’s working hard on the 2nd and DHS has classified protesting as domestic terrorism. And, we’re one state short of having a majority of the population opposing federal firearms laws.”

“Are you familiar with FM 3-39.40?”

“What’s that?”

“The 2010 Field Manual covering Internment and Resettlement Operations. I downloaded a copy from the internet. I was surprised to find it, it’s classified. Apparently someone with access posted it.”

“Is that the Field Manual governing those so called FEMA Camps?”

“I think so Jim.”

“They would have a Field Manual covering the Camps if they didn’t have the Camps, right?”

“I doubt it.”

“Is Darlene up to speed on her firearms?”

“Ask Harry. Why?”

“It’s about time to get the chicken into the pot and cooking, if you get my drift.”

“Have Harry and Darlene keep the home fires burning while we go gallivanting?”

“Yeah. We’ll have to get compartments added to the Suburban and repaint that U-Haul trailer.”

“Wouldn’t it be better to pull the Air Stream?”

“Good idea. We can modify the Air Stream to secure the spears and such from prying eyes.”

“You’d better plan on adding additional fuel tanks so we always have enough fuel for our getaway.”

“Nancy, you have to avoid using terms like getaway. Try to substitute terms like relocation or next stop on our vacation.”

“Is that what you’re going to call it; a vacation?”

“I’ve always wanted to go sightseeing. Maybe see the east coast and eat a Maine lobster or some Chesapeake seafood. I’ll check with Harry on how Darlene is doing on her shooting.”

“Harry, got a minute?”

“Heck, I’ve got until chore time, what’s up?”

“How is Darlene doing with her shooting?”

“Well, she only had the Loaded and it wasn’t 1 of 1,000 so she was only getting about 1.5MOA to 800 meters. With the Super Match, she’s under 1MOA out to 1,000 meters. As far as the other firearms, just what they’re capable of as manufactured. She does real well on the H&Ks. Why?”

“It’s about time that Nancy and I took our trip.”

“East coast or west?”

“East.”

“Take I-40 to I-64 in Knoxville and I-64 to I-81 and that to I-66.”

“Where will we end up?”

“Washington. Gonna pull the Air Stream?”

“We discussed it.”

“I modified the bed while I was staying in it.”

“What did you do?”

“Mounted the box springs on plywood and it’s hinged at the head. You lift up the bed and there’s a compartment in the box springs to store firearms. Modified a couple of cabinets to hold ammo. You can take 2,000 rounds each of 7.62 and 5.56 plus 1,000

each 9mm and .45acp Gold Dot and an assortment of shotgun shells, say 3 cases. I know a guy in Flagstaff that can add 2 more fuel tanks to extend your range 100 gallons worth. We can replace the smaller 20 pound propane tanks with 40 pounders, too.”

“Ok.”

“One thing.”

“What’s that?”

“If you two get caught, is this place ours?”

“We’re not going to get caught.”

“That’s what they all say. What about it?”

“You can continue to live here until we get back.”

“With that kind of confidence, you might just get back.”

“Just what is it you think we’re going to do?”

“Black Hills ammo, right? Hornady AMAX and Mk211, right? Brenneke and Remington plus Speer no doubt. Scout it out good before you make the shot and scurry after you do. One shot and one shot only whether you get a hit or miss. Go to Delaware that should throw them off. In fact, you probably should get set up at a campground for the Air Stream ahead of time. They won’t expect Delaware because you’d be boxing yourself in.”

“Harry, you sound like you think we’re going hunting.”

“No worries mate, he’s afraid of guns. Must be terrified the way he’s trying to get rid of all of them.”

“One shot only. Don’t you mean one ping only?”

“You saw the movie?”

“Didn’t everyone?”

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Meanwhile, across the nation, a pair of symbols came to the fore to identify conservative patriots. One was the symbol of Freemasonry, the compass and square. While slow to catch on, manufacturers begin to generate large numbers of the symbol in the form of

pins, money clip emblems and so forth. The symbol was simple, but identified individuals who opposed the government's position on assault weapons.



The symbol was adopted as a whole regardless of whether the person was a Freemason or not. While it led to some initial confusion among the Freemasons and other organizations like the Knights of Columbus, Odd Fellows and so forth within months the symbol had caught on.

Jim and Nancy were unaware of the use of the symbols until Harry took the Suburban to Flagstaff to get the fuel tanks installed. While there, he learned of the Compass and Square and secured 2 as money clips and 2 other pendants for the ladies.

“Here you go.”

“What's this?”

“It's the symbol of Freemasonry. That's what the pro-gun anti-government group is using to identify themselves. If someone asks if you're a Freemason, answer, 'I am'. The Ladies have a different symbol, the Order of the Eastern Star.”



“That’s the symbol on the pennants. Eastern Star is open to both male and female members while Freemasons are only males. From what I was told, it’s not uncommon for a Freemason to be married to an Eastern Star. Anyway, they’re easy enough to flash, like when you pull out your money clip to pay for something. I’d suggest you carry plenty of cash. Nancy can simply wear the necklace.”

“Thanks. Vehicle ready?”

“Oh yeah; the Suburban can carry an extra 100 gallons of diesel as can the U-Haul. You notice I had it painted to eliminate the U-Haul paint scheme. They sanded it down to bare metal, primed it and painted it. Even did some cosmetic work to eliminate the dings. I also had a hitch attached to attach the Air Stream to the U-Haul. Finally, I had brakes added to the U-Haul. Does the Air Stream have brakes? Is it legal for a Suburban to pull a U-Haul pulling an Air Stream?”

“Did you fill the tanks?”

“What are you, nuts? I brought back the 2 20-pound propane tanks but you’ll have to fill the 2 40-pound tanks and add the 200-gallons of diesel. We’re due to have it topped off so you can fill the various tanks from our supplies here. Here’s the bill for the work on the Suburban and trailer. You can mail them a check.”

“Anything else?”

“Don’t get caught.”

“I’m not sure that we’re on the same page here, Harry. No one can get within rifle range of the President, even with a long range rifle like a Tac-50. Besides, shooting the SOB would give ammo to the people in favor of an Assault Weapons Ban. I’m more concerned about Senator Fineswine than the President. He can’t sign it unless she can get it passed and the Republican still hold a small majority in the House.”

“Now her you might be able to take out as long as you stay out of handgun range. Did you check out the Air Stream?”

“How could I, you had the keys with you.”

“Sorry. You can store those Plano gun cases in the box springs. Do I need to take the Air Steam up and have brakes added?”

“No, that’s fine Harry. The more I think about this the more I realize that I’ve painted myself into a corner here. As far as that goes, the pro-gun lobby has neatly been painted into a corner. Here’s what I mean... how do we oppose Obama and Congress if they outlaw guns?”

“Two ways, through the courts or by capping politicians.”

“Exactly. How would the population respond to the second alternative? Not well in my opinion. Face facts, our society has become a violent society. In my opinion that happened when we developed mass visual media, like TV. What would have happened in the ‘60s if TV hadn’t reported the protests, Kent State or Vietnam the way they did?”

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The expression *hoisted on my own petard* refers to being injured by the device that you intended to use to injure others. The phrase ‘hoist with one’s own petard’ is often cited as ‘hoist by one’s own petard’. The two forms mean the same, although the former is strictly a more accurate version of the original source. A petard is, or rather was, as they have long since fallen out of use, a small engine of war used to blow breaches in gates or walls. They were originally metallic and bell-shaped but later cubical wooden boxes. Whatever the shape, the significant feature was that they were full of gunpowder - basically what we would now call a bomb.

Once the word is known, ‘hoist by your own petard’ is easy to fathom. It’s nice also to have a definitive source - no less than Shakespeare, who gives the line to Hamlet, 1602:

“For tis the sport to have the enginer Hoist with his owne petar”.

Note: engineers were originally constructors of military engines.

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We would keep a low profile until the BATFE set foot on our property. I’m not sure where we would go from there... maybe John Ross had it right in *Unintended Consequences*.

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